

A WORD FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

PICK ME UP

By: Rod Jackson

It's basketball season at Grace Lutheran School and as the father of a girls' varsity team player that means it's time to gear up for multiple practices and games, travel to exotic places, and the smell of sweaty socks. My daughter started playing basketball in the 5th grade and for the first couple of years it seemed like in every game she always ended up on the floor multiple times during the game. I'm not sure why but the sight of her prone on the floor when the whistle blew seemed all too common. That's why I became a big fan of the time honored tradition of a teammate extending a hand to help a fellow player get up from the floor. My kid seemed to benefit from that a lot. I've been thinking about watching Rachel helped up from the floor many times in the context of our theme for this school year at Grace. The theme is "You Are Not Alone" based on John 16:32b-33: "Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me. I have said these things to you, that in me you

may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world." Basketball, like many other human activities, is a team effort that is a lot more fun played with others rather than alone. And in basketball like in life things are a lot better when there's someone to help you up when you fall. Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 tells us that "Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up!" We are blessed to have a Savior Jesus who is always there to pick us up when we fall; His grace and mercy never leave us no matter how many times we fail. In response to His love we should always be looking for those we can "pick up". Do you see someone feeling alone, sorrowful, hopeless, or hurting? Reach out your hand in Christian love and lift them up – and let them know they are not alone!

WORDS TO LIVE BY

"Neither height nor depth nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord" Romans 8:39



MEET OUR PRINCIPAL

Mr. Rodney Jackson

I have been blessed to serve as the Principal here at Grace for over a decade. Both of my children attend our school and it's been wonderful to watch them grow in so many ways during their years here. My wife Karen is a professor at Jacksonville University and tremendous supporter of the Grace ministry. Grace Lutheran School has strengthened me spiritually, deepened my knowledge of the world around me, and allowed me to develop lifelong friendships that I will always treasure.