



First words and last words: Many mothers record milestones of their babies during their first year of life. I have done so with each of my three children. Jeremy's baby book has more recorded than Anna's and significantly more than Jonah's does but I guess that is typical for a first child's memory book. I can remember anticipating his first word and hoping that it would be "mama" and I wasn't disappointed! Of course, I must admit that I said it over and over to him to help him along the way! Lately I have been thinking about first words and last words and the importance of them. Jesus' first words recorded in scripture were to His mother when she was looking for Him and found Him at the temple. He said to her, *"Why are you looking for me? I must be about my Father's business."* (Luke 2:48-49) Mary had been instructed by the angel that she would have a child *"He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end."*

Jesus was reminding His mother that He was there for a purpose and that was to do the Father's will. We don't know what Jesus' actual first word was. It could have been "mother" but the first words of importance are what have been recorded for us to know.

In the same way, last words are very important. I vividly remember the last week of my mother's life here on earth. She had slipped into a coma-like condition and had remained that way for four days. In the afternoon of the fourth day, she awoke and was trying to sit up. I remember my father picking her up and holding her in his arms as she tried with all of her strength to speak to us. She looked around at each of us in the room and she pointed her finger and said, "I love every one of you." That was the most important message she wanted to leave with us. I will never forget those words.

Jesus' last words to the disciples he loved so much before He ascended to heaven were "Go make disciples!" The most important thing He wanted His disciples to hear and remember was to go and make disciples! Are you actively participating in discipleship? If not, why not? It is up to us to share Jesus with those around us. It is not just a suggestion, rather it is a command! Grace Women started a discipleship program two years ago and in January we will begin our third year of discipleship groups. If you are interested in discipleship, I would love to help you begin your journey of walking out this important task that Jesus left for us to do!

Love,

Libbie



**Mark Your Calendar**
  
December 3 Sanford Parade
   
December 4 Grace CDC Christmas Program
   
December 6 GCS Christmas Program
   
December 8 Widows, Widowers, and Singles Luncheon 12-2 pm
   
December 9 Children of the World 6 pm
   
December 10 Annual Missions Christmas Dinner 6pm
   
December 12 Christmas Drive-Thru rehearsal
   
December 13-15 Christmas Drive Thru
   
December 22 Christmas Candlelight Service 4 pm
   
December 23 Christmas Cantata 10 am





Many thanks to those who helped us decorate the church for the Christmas season! Many hands working together made for light work! Thank you for serving in this way!



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