## Welcome

We're glad you've joined us this morning! Feel free to check things out and determine whether we might be a good match for you. We're here to help at your invitation—you set the pace.

When you're ready for the next step, consider checking out an additional Sunday activity like Bible Fellowships or Community Groups, or a mid-week study that interests you. There are many great ways to connect with others in our church family each semester as you grow in your relationship with Jesus. Pick up a *Guide to Grace Church* as you leave for more details!

# **Online Access**

It's now easier than ever to find the information and tools you need from the front page of our website at **gracechurch.com!** 

You can save time and paperwork by quickly registering yourself or your family for activities, giving online using a card or bank account, and subscribing to calendars and email updates. Get the latest details about upcoming classes, studies, small groups, and special events.

It works great on your smartphone or tablet, too!

# **Grace** Church

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**Grace Church Wichita Falls** 



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# **Coming This Summer**



Former MLB pitcher Dave Dravecky shares difficult lessons he learned about adapting to life's unforeseen circumstances. Sign up online for this one-night stay at Quartz Mountain, OK.



Church family, you can help make Camp in the City a great success. If you'd like to provide food or help around the building that week, see us in the Main Hall! Parents, registration opens Feb. 5!



If you'd like to spend a little more time meeting with others and studying the Bible together on Sunday mornings, check out a Bible Fellowship. Adult groups meet upstairs at 9:00 or 10:30 AM.



These Sunday night small groups are the best way to build lasting relationships with a handful of others from your church family. Contact your life stage pastor (below) for details.

# **Leadership Team**

Harry Allison

Flder

Jim Chandler

Flder

Joe Cook Flder

Bill Daniel

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Reggie Coe Marriage & Senior Adults Pastor, Elder reggie@gracechurch.com

**Derek Hughes** Middle Adults Pastor *derek@gracechurch.com* 

Geoff Meador

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January 28, 2018



Today we continue our series looking at the landscape of today's culture in light of biblical truths. We'll pursue a deeper understanding of prayer, our best recourse in times like these—how we should approach God, and why it is a critical practice for believers. We're glad you've joined us.

# **News and Family Matters**

#### **Spring Semester Underway**

Our new season of studies, classes, and small groups for all ages began this month. If you're looking for a way to connect and grow beyond the Sunday morning worship service, there's still time to get involved. We encourage you to jump in this week!

You can find a complete list of these opportunities in the Spring 2018 *Guide to Grace Church*, available at any exit, and on our updated website at gracechurch.com. We hope you'll take a few minutes to consider which ones might be a good fit for you.

#### **Website Updates**

This year, tasks like registering for classes and giving online have become faster and easier than ever. Please consider taking advantage of the speed and convenience offered by these updates to our website as we begin a new year together.

## **Monthly Financial Report**

Funds Needed		1,095,729
Expenses	576,410	1,700,000
Contributions	604,271	604,271
	Year to Date (Sep. 1–Dec. 31)	Annual Budget (Sep.1–Aug. 31)

We believe giving is a form of individual worship — it should be done freely and without compulsion. You may give discreetly in offering boxes located throughout the building or online at any time.

## This Week

## Churchwide

#### **Worship Services**

Today, 9:00-10:15 AM or 10:30-11:45 AM

#### Bible Fellowships

Today, 9:00-10:15 AM or 10:30-11:45 AM

#### **Small Groups**

#### **Community Groups**

Today, 5:30-7:30 PM in various homes №

#### **Biblical and Topical Studies**

#### An Outfitter's Guide to the Book of Acts

Wednesday, 6:30-8:00 PM in room 206 &

#### **Financial Peace University**

Wednesday, 6:30-8:00 PM in room 207 &

#### The Bondage Breaker

Wednesday, 6:30-8:00 PM in room 208 &

#### Quest

Thursday, 6:30-8:00 PM in room 204

## **Marriage and Family Studies**

#### What Did You Expect?

Wednesday, 6:30-8:00 PM in room 209 &

## Men

#### **Walking with Christ**

Tuesday, 6:00-7:30 AM or 6:30-8:00 PM in the Loft

#### Samson's Society

Thursday, 7:00–8:30 PM in the Library

#### **Friday Morning Study**

Friday, 6:30-7:30 AM in room 206

#### Women

#### Discerning the Voice of God

Tuesday, 10:00-11:30 AM in room 208 ≜

#### The Quest

Thursday, 10:00-11:30 AM in room 208

- △ : Childcare available by reservation
- **★**: New this week

### **Senior Adults**

#### **Tuesday Bible Study**

Tuesday, 1:00-2:00 PM in room 111

## College

#### **College LateNight**

Tuesday, 8:00-9:30 PM at the G.Y.M.

### **High School**

#### The ARC

Tuesday, 6:30-7:30 PM at Lamar Baptist Church

Wednesday, 6:30-8:00 PM at the G.Y.M.

#### **Middle School**

#### **Foundations Study**

Monday, 6:30-7:30 PM at 4635 North Shore Dr

Wednesday, 6:30-8:00 PM at the G.Y.M.

#### 4th-5th Grade

#### Dinner and a Movie

Today, 5:30-8:00 PM in the Loft

Wednesday, 6:30-8:00 PM in the Loft

## Children

#### Kids' Quest

Wednesday, 6:30-8:00 PM in the Children's Area

# **This Morning**

### **Lesson 4: The Purpose of Prayer**

- Tom Rodgers, Lead Pastor I. The purpose of prayer is best understood within the context of the sovereign plan of God. **A.** God's sovereign plan is inscrutable (Romans 11:33) and unchangeable (Isaiah 46:10). Our personal decisions and their consequences, as well as our prayers, are included in His sovereign plan, which may best be exemplified in the life of Judas Iscariot (Psalm 41:9: Matthew 26:14-16). II. To know how to pray effectively, we have to be people of the Book, because it reveals what He wants to do (Proverbs 28:9; John 15:7). III. Studying the life of Elijah helps us understand the purpose of prayer. In Gilead, Elijah studied the Scriptures and then asked the Lord to do what He desired to do by sending a drought (1 Kings 17:1; James 5:16b–18; Deuteronomy 11:13–17). **B.** At the Brook Cherith, he learned to depend upon the Lord (1 Kings 17:2–7). **C.** In Zarephath, the prophet's trust in the Lord deepened (1 Kings 7:8–24). On Mt. Carmel, it became apparent that Elijah had become God's man and partnered with Him in executing the divine plan (1 Kings 18:20-40).
  - On the top of Mt. Carmel, the prophet asked the Lord to end the drought, which was His expressed desire according to Deuteronomy 11 (1 Kings 18:41–46).
- IV. Prayer is an evolving, dynamic process that is intended to deepen over time from asking to relying to trusting to bonding, which creates intimacy with the Lord.
- V. The purpose of prayer is to cultivate trust in the Lord and become His partner in what He desires to do.

# **Next Sunday**

**Notes** 

Huddle Up, Week 5