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. Contact the staff pastor over your life stage for more information.

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* for more details!



Visit GraceChurch.com

on your smartphone, computer, or tablet to register for upcoming activities, subscribe to calendars on your device, and learn more about what's available for you and your family!

Grace Church

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Grace Church Wichita Falls



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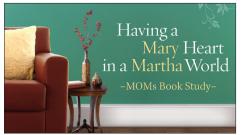


www.gracechurch.com

Starting This Week



Dig deeply into the freedom offered through Jesus Christ in this study of the book of Galatians for men. Tuesdays at 6:00 AM or 6:30 PM.



Moms of all ages can join us for this study an invitation for every woman who feels she isn't godly enough... isn't loving enough... isn't doing enough. Tuesdays at 10:00 AM.



We know that love best motivates a woman, but do we know what best motivates a man? This study for women includes group discussion and prayer. Tuesdays at 10:00 AM or 6:30 PM.



In this 6-session Bible study, you'll learn to guard what God has entrusted to you, share Christ with others, and pour into future generations. Tuesdays at 6:30 PM or Thursdays at 10:00 AM.

Leadership Team

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Elder

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Alli Fernberg

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Blake Boyd

Worship Leader blake@gracechurch.com



September 11, 2016



This morning, we begin our fall 2016 study of the book of Lamentations. In this series, which runs through November, we'll explore Jeremiah's message of mourning and hope for his people—and gain insight into our own circumstances, as well. We're glad you've joined us!

News and Family Matters



Learn More About Jeremiah

If you'd like more context for our study of Lamentations, you can hear a four-part overview of the book's writer Jeremiah on our podcast, available at gracechurch.com/podcast or the iTunes Store.

Quest — Begins This Wednesday at 6:30 PM

There are still a few spots open for this study that helps you discover how God has uniquely gifted you to serve Him and others by developing a life map and personal mission statement. Enrollment limited to 8 participants, sign up or get more information in the Main Hall today.

Grace U — Begins October 2 at 9:00 AM

If you'd like to learn more about the people, story, and beliefs of Grace Church, we invite you to attend Grace U. This introductory class meets Sunday mornings at 9:00 AM for three weeks beginning October 2. Please sign up online or in the Main Hall today if you'll be joining us.

Mother-Son Night — October 2 at 5:30 PM

This annual event is a chance for moms to have a great time with their little guys as we compete in the 2016 Grace Church Games. Costs \$10 per family. Get all the details or register your family at the children's table in the Main Hall today, or online at gracechurch.com.

This Week

Churchwide

Worship Services

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

Bible Fellowships

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

Small Groups

Community Groups

Sunday, 5:30–7:30 PM in various homes

Biblical & Topical Studies

1 Timothy

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

Quest

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

Marriage & Family Studies

Respectfully Yours

Tuesday, 10:00–11:30 AM or Tuesday, 6:30–8:00 PM in room 202

Love and Respect

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

Men

Finding Freedom: Galatians

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

Samson Society

Thursday, 7:00–8:30 PM in the Library

Friday Morning Study

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

Women

MOMs Book Study

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

Entrusted: 2 Timothy

Tuesday, 6:30–8:00 PM or Thursday, 10:00–11:30 AM in room 208

Senior Adults

Tuesday Afternoon Study

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

College & Career

Converge

Tuesday, 6:30–8:00 PM at the G.Y.M.

High School

Upperclassmen Study

Tuesday, 6:00–7:30 PM at 1927 Ardath

Youth

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

Faith Mission

Friday, 7:00-8:30 PM, meet at the G.Y.M.

Middle School

Foundations Study

Tuesday, 6:30–7:30 PM at 2921 Moffett

Youth

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

4th & 5th Grade

Dinner and a Movie

Sunday, 5:30-7:30 PM in the Loft

Ignite

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

Preschool-3rd Grade

Kids' Quest

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

This Morning

How'd We Get in the Mess We're in?—An Introduction to Lamentations

Tom Rodgers, Lead Pastor

- **I. Israel's beginning:** The Lord sovereignly chose Abram of Ur to father the new nation of Israel as the means to reach the entire world (21st century B.C.)—*Genesis 12:1–3*.
- **II. Israel's erosion:** The first four generations of Israel's life among the "integrative" people of Canaan progressively eroded her sense of calling as God's covenant people— *Genesis 38:1–30.*
- **III. Israel's preservation:** The Lord providentially orchestrated Joseph's enslavement to lead the entire nation of Israel to live in the land of the "segregative" Egyptians in order to purify her over the next four centuries—*Genesis* 41:56–42:2; 43:32; 45:3–8a.
- **IV.** Israel's redemption: The Lord led a redeemed Israel out of bondage in Egypt on the basis of her faith in the Passover Lamb through the leadership of Moses (15th century B.C.)— *Exodus 12–14.*
- V. Israel's constitution: The Lord led redeemed Israel to Mt. Sinai (Horeb) to establish the Mosaic Covenant with Him—Exodus 19:5–6.
 - **A.** Three elements were necessary for Israel to be a nation: people (a few million after the Egyptian bondage), land (the land promised to Abraham in Genesis 15:18–21), and a constitution (the Mosaic Covenant).
 - **B.** The Mosaic Covenant was given to redeemed Israel as her code of conduct.
 - C. The Mosaic Covenant was bilateral, because obedience was necessary to participate in its provisions, unlike the Abrahamic Covenant, which was unilateral— Genesis 12:1–3; 15:7–18; Deuteronomy 28:1–68.
- VI. Israel's land: The Mosaic Covenant stated that Israel's land was not to be farmed every seventh year (the Sabbatical Year) and after every forty-nine years (the Year of Jubilee)—

 Leviticus 25:1–12.
- **VII.** Israel's failure: Israel succumbed to idolatry and disregarded the Sabbatical and Jubilee years, thereby suffering the promised "curse" of destruction and removal from the land at the hands of the Babylonians for seventy years—2 Chronicles 36:5–21.
- **VIII.** Israel's funeral: The prophet Jeremiah wrote the Book of Lamentations as a series of funeral dirges to mourn the destruction of Jerusalem in 586 B.C. with the certain expectation of a rich future because of the Lord's faithfulness to the Abrahamic Covenant.
 - A. Jeremiah's use of the "limping meter" pattern (3+2) heightens the sense of emptiness and incompleteness in Israel's demise.
 - **B.** The acrostic use of the letters of the Hebrew alphabet in the first four chapters heightens the sense of the complete loss of the life Israel once knew.

Closing: The Book of Lamentations demonstrates four central truths.

- **1.** God will do what He says He will do.
- 2. Knowing the Word must be accompanied by obedience.
- 3. Sin always causes decay and death, rather than liberty and life.
- **4.** God's faithfulness means that we are never without Biblical hope.
