## 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!



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!

# Information



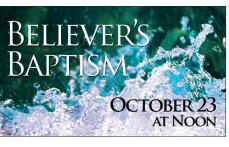
This introductory class meets Sunday mornings at 9:00 AM for three weeks beginning October 2. If you'd like to learn more about Grace Church, please sign up online or in the Main Hall today.



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. Sign up online or in the Main Hall today.



Middle School students search the surrounding area for clues as their targets try to make it back to the G.Y.M. without being caught. Friday night at 6:00 PM—register by tonight at 11:59 PM.



If you would like to publicly profess your faith in Jesus Christ and be baptized on October 23. please contact the church office to arrange a meeting with a member of our pastoral team.

## G Grace Church

5214 Stone Lake Drive Wichita Falls, TX 76310

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Grace Church Wichita Falls

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# **Leadership Team**

Harry Allison Elder

### Jim Chandler Elder

Tom Rodgers Lead Pastor, Elder tom@gracechurch.com

### Reggie Coe

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

**Bill Daniel** Church Executive, Elder billd@gracechurch.com

Geoff Meador Communications Director geoff@gracechurch.com

Charlie Eipper Elder

#### Bill Gowan Flder

Josh Fernberg Children's Pastor josh@gracechurch.com

Caleb Levell 4th & 5th Grade Coordinator caleb@gracechurch.com

George Castro Middle School Pastor george@gracechurch.com

Nolen Smith High School Pastor nolen@gracechurch.com

## G Grace Church

# September 18, 2016



This morning, we continue 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.

### One Way to Serve — Worship Tech Team

Our worship tech team is in need of people with the time, energy, and desire to facilitate congregational worship on Sunday mornings. If you're interested in audio/video technology or computers and would like to serve your church family in this way, please contact Blake Boyd at the church office.

### Family Matters

Congratulations to Amy and Blayne Berry on the birth of their daughter Olivia Grace.

College & Young Adults Pastor curtis@gracechurch.com

Alli Fernberg Women's Ministry Director alli@gracechurch.com

Blake Boyd Worship Leader blake@gracechurch.com

Phil Ringman Elder

Larry Schmeltzer Elder

Curtis Lindsey

# **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

### **Biblical & Topical Studies**

**1 Timothy** Wednesday, 6:30–8:00 PM in room 206 &

Quest Wednesday, 6:30–8:00 PM in room 204 율

### **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 &

**Premarital Equipping Weekend** Saturday, 1:00–5:00 PM in the Loft

### 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

**Women's Community Group** Sunday, 5:30–7:30 at 1615 Tilden

MOMs Book Study Tuesday, 10:00–11:30 AM in room 208 &

#### Entrusted: 2 Timothy Tuesday, 6:30–8:00 PM & or

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

### **Senior Adults**

Game Night Monday, 6:30–9:00 PM in the Loft

**Tuesday Afternoon Study** Tuesday, 1:00–2:00 PM in room 111 & : Childcare available by reservation

## 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.

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.

Man Tracker Friday, 6:00–8:30 PM at the G.Y.M.

### 4th & 5th Grade

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

 Watching Judah Grieve Her Demise

Tom Rodgers, Lead Pastor

I. The grief of Jerusalem: Jeremiah watched the Southern Kingdom grieve over her unimaginable losses at the hands of the ancient Chaldeans in 586 B.C.— Lamentations 1:1–7.

- **A.** Seeing her world "turned upside down": Jerusalem, representing Judah as her capital, experienced severe depopulation, national marginalization, and socio-economic despair—*Lamentations 1:1.*
- **B.** Feeling abandoned by her companions: All the false gods and foreign nations with whom she had committed spiritual adultery had completely deserted her—*Lamentations 1:2.*
- **C.** Accepting her abduction: The people of Judah were forced to accept and mourn the harsh reality that she had been enslaved and forcefully exiled to Babylon hundreds of miles to the east—*Lamentations 1:3.*
- **D.** Bewailing being shut down: The entire city of Jerusalem anguished over the loss of her temple, its ministries, and all those it served after her complete subjugation by the Chaldeans and the deportation of most of her citizens—*Lamentations 1:4.*
- **E.** Realizing the collateral damage: The prophet Jeremiah rightfully noted that the Lord had caused Judah's demise, which culminated in her children's suffering and exile to the land of the Babylonians (cp. Deuteronomy 28:41)—*Lamentations 1:5.*
- **F.** Comprehending her defamation: Judah had forfeited her national honor in becoming the hunted prey of the Babylonian invaders (cp. 2 Kings 25:4-5)—*Lamentations 1:6.*
- **G.** Being haunted by her favored past: The memories of her glorious past only exacerbated the pain of being completely abandoned when she was forced to succumb to King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon—*Lamentations 1:7.*
- **II.** The shame of Jerusalem: The people of the Southern Kingdom felt ravaged, forsaken, and consumed by the shame of their impurities—*Lamentations 1:8–9.*
- **III.** The desecration of Jerusalem: The Judeans stood helplessly by as they witnessed the inconceivable take-over of her "invincible" Temple by the unclean nation of Babylon (cp. Jeremiah 7:14)—*Lamentations 1:10.*
- IV. The desperation of Jerusalem: The people of Judah had become so desperate during the Babylonian assault that she most likely succumbed to cannibalism—Lamentations 1:11a.

**Conclusion:** In this study, we've seen three of the four central truths of the book emphasized in this series of funeral dirges.

- 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.

Notes