

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!



Ladies' Night Out

Thursday, Dec 8, 6:30–8:30 PM



Ladies, join us for a hot chocolate bar and encouragement from speaker Sherril Berre—bring a dozen of your favorite Christmas treat to share! Sign up in the Main Hall this morning.

If you would like to serve as a Salvation Army Bell Ringer on December 10, please get details or sign up today in the Main Hall. This annual event helps raise funds to serve those in need.



The Guide to Grace Church
Winter 2016

You'll find a handy guide to next month's Christmas-themed events available at the exits today. Please take as many as you need to keep your family informed!



LIFE ABUNDANT

A STUDY OF THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

This morning, we take the initial steps into our study of the Gospel of John. The first two weeks will introduce the book and its writer, then we'll open our Christmas season with chapter one and its good news about the coming of Jesus Christ. We're glad you've joined us today!



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News and Family Matters

- Family Matters**

Please pray for the family of Jean Brock as they grieve her passing.

Please pray for the family of Peggy Gordon as they grieve her passing.

Please pray for Carol and Milburn Nutt as they grieve the passing of their son Leslie.

Financial Update		
General Fund	Last Year Sep. 1, 2015– Oct. 31, 2015	This Year Sep. 1, 2016– Oct. 31, 2016
Amount Received	195,823	263,984
Amount Spent	250,204	241,073
Net Gain/(Loss)	(54,381)	22,911

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

Women

Women’s Community Group
Sunday, 5:30–7:30 PM at 1615 Tilden

Men

Samson Society
Thursday, 7:00–8:30 PM in the Library

👶 : Childcare available by reservation

College & Career

Converge
Tuesday, 6:30–8:00 PM at the G.Y.M.

High School

The ARC
Tuesday, 6:30–7:30 PM at Lamar Baptist Church

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

Middle School

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

Christmas Worship Schedule

Sunday, December 18
9:00 and 10:30 AM in the Gymnatorium

No Bible Fellowships except for children through 5th grade

Saturday, December 24—Christmas Eve
4:00, 6:00, and 9:00 PM in the Chapel

4:00 — Designed for the entire family, childcare for ages 3 and under

6:00 — Designed for the entire family, no childcare available

9:00 — Late night service designed with a more traditional feel, no childcare available

Sunday, December 25—Christmas
10:30 AM in the Chapel

One hour, no Bible Fellowships, with a program for children through 3rd grade

Sunday, January 1—New Year’s Day
10:30 AM in the Gymnatorium

One hour, no Bible Fellowships, with a program for children through 3rd grade



This Morning

An Overview of the Gospel of John: Seeing the Forest by Looking at the Trees

Tom Rodgers, Lead Pastor

- I. **The purpose of the Gospel of John:** John wrote his unique account of the life of Jesus Christ as the Son of God so that his readers might believe in Him and receive spiritual life—*John 20:30–31*.
- II. **The selectivity in the Gospel of John:** John, and the other gospel writers, began with the same information about Jesus Christ, but intentionally presented His life with a unique theme.

	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
The theme	The King of the Jews	The Perfect Servant	The Perfect Man	The Son of God
The symbol	Lion	Ox	Man	Eagle
The audience	Israel	Romans	Greeks	Universal
The distinctive	128 quotes from the O.T.	“Immediately” used 43 times	Stresses His early years	Stresses divine titles

- III. **The word for “miracle” in the Gospel of John:** John only uses the word “sign” (Greek *semeion*) when he refers to a “miracle” with the exception of 4:48 when he uses the word “wonder” (Greek *teras*).

“wonder”	Greek <i>teras</i>	stresses the wonder or awe that is generated
“power”	Greek <i>dunamis</i>	stresses the power that is demonstrated
“sign”	Greek <i>semeion</i>	stresses the significance of what is done

- IV. **The seven miracles in the Gospel of John:** John carefully selected seven miracles to demonstrate that Jesus is the Son of God in Whom we should believe in order to experience spiritual life—*John 20:30–31*.

1. Changing water to wine	2:1–11	He is the Creator
2. Healing of nobleman’s son	4:46–54	He is Lord over space and time
3. Healing of the man at the pool	5:1–18	He is Lord over physical affliction
4. Feeding of the 5000	6:1–14	He is Lord over physical needs
5. Walking on water	6:16–21	He is Lord over Nature
6. Healing of the blind man	9:1–41	He is Lord over blindness
7. Raising of Lazarus	11:1–44	He is Lord over death

- V. **The flow in the Gospel of John:** Each of Jesus’ miracles is normally accompanied by belief and unbelief, which, in turn, is followed by a discourse.
- VI. **The nature of “life” in the Gospel of John:** The apostle John presents spiritual life as a capacity, which can grow, develop, and deepen—*John 3:16, 3:36, 10:10, and 17:3*.

- VII. **The structure of the Gospel of John:** John unfolds his presentation of Jesus Christ as the Son of God in the following manner:

The Prologue (1:1–18)	Introduces the contents of the book
The Seven Miracles (1:19–12:50)	Demonstrates His divine Sonship
The Upper Room Discourse (13:1–17:26)	Teaches how to experience spiritual life
The Means to Fulfill the Purpose (18:1–20:29)	Deals with His death burial, resurrection, and post-resurrection ministry
The Purpose of the Book (20:30–31)	States the purpose of the book
The Epilogue (21:1–25)	Illustrates how belief should be applied