## 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. 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!



## Did you know...

...you can access an online church directory at our website? Just click "Member Access" in the top left, then "Church Directory" to opt in.

Watch this space for more features that make it easy to connect with us!

# Grace Church

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Grace Church Wichita Falls



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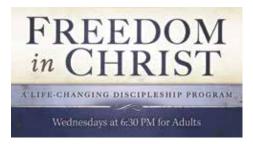


gracechurchwf



www.gracechurch.com

## This Month



This discipleship course's fresh biblical perspective can help resolve personal and spiritual conflicts in your life. Begins this Wednesday in room 208.



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. Resumes January 17 in room 208.

Tuesdays at 10:00 AM



Brighten the landscape of your marriage, avoid potential problems, and gain wisdom and insight from expert teachers in this 6-week video study. Begins January 25 in room 207.



Go deeper into what it means to "put on the armor of God" in all aspects of life with this video study for women by Priscilla Shirer. Begins January 17 (Tues.) or 19 (Thurs.) in room 208.

# **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

Bill Gowan

## Flder

Josh Fernberg Children's Pastor josh@aracechurch.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

## **Phil Ringman** Elder

#### Larry Schmeltzer Elder

## Curtis Lindsev

College & Young Adults Pastor curtis@gracechurch.com

## Derek Hughes

Middle Adults Pastor derek@gracechurch.com

### Alli Fernberg

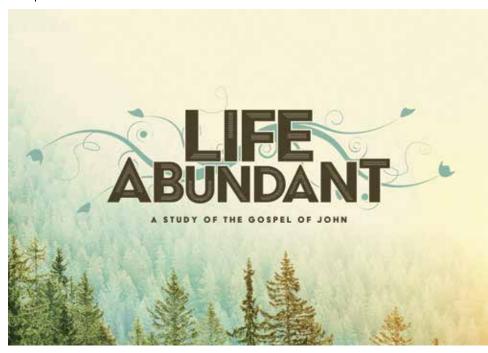
Women's Ministry Director alli@gracechurch.com

## Blake Boyd

Worship Leader blake@gracechurch.com



January 8, 2017



Welcome back from the holidays! This morning, we continue our study of the Gospel of John and its unique perspective on the person and character of Jesus Christ. We're glad you've joined us today!

# **News and Family Matters**

#### **Family Matters**

Congratulations to Audrey and Brady Leach on the birth of their son Michael Cozelle.

Please pray for Barbara and Rick McMahen as they grieve the passing of his mother, and for Jennifer Taylor as she grieves the passing of her father.



## 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 and Topical Studies**

#### Ecclesiastes

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

#### **Freedom in Christ**

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

## Men

#### Revelation

Tuesday, 6:00-7:30 AM or 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 PM at 1615 Tilden

## Section : Childcare available by reservation

#### **Senior Adults**

#### **Tuesday Afternoon Study**

Tuesday, 1:00–2:00 PM in room 111

### **High School**

#### **Disciple Now Pre-session**

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

#### **Disciple Now**

Friday–Sunday in host homes

#### **Middle School**

#### **Disciple Now Pre-session**

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

#### **Disciple Now**

Friday-Sunday in host homes

#### 4th & 5th Grade

#### Ignite

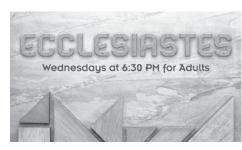
Wednesday, 6:30–8:00 PM in the Loft

### Preschool-3rd Grade

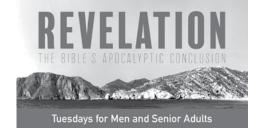
#### Kids' Quest

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

# This Month (continued)



This midweek study of the book of Ecclesiastes will help us understand how to live effectively in a world full of enigmas. Began last week in room 206. Also available 6:30 AM Fridays for men.



Journey through the Bible's apocalyptic conclusion, uncover its vision for the future, and discover how to apply it to our lives. Begins this Tuesday for both men and senior adults.

## **This Morning**

Lesson 6: The Testimony of John the Baptist—John 1:19-34

Tom Rodgers, Lead Pastor

- John the Baptist's explanation of his identity and ministry: John the Baptist identified himself as the prophesied voice announcing the coming of the Messiah—John 1:19–28.
  - **A.** The explanation of his identity: John answered the Pharisees' question by explaining that he was not the prophesied Messiah, Elijah, or the Moses-like prophet, but the prophesied voice announcing the Anointed One—John 1:19–23.
    - 1. Who he wasn't: John the Baptist flatly denied that he was the Messiah, Elijah, or the Moses-like prophet (cp. Malachi 4:5–6; Deuteronomy 18:18)—*John 1:19–21*.
    - 2. Who he was: John the Baptist identified himself as the prophesied voice announcing the coming of the Messiah (cp. Isaiah 40:1–5)—John 1:22–23.
  - **B.** The explanation of his ministry: John emphatically stated that his ministry of baptizing was directly related to his calling as the Messiah's forerunner—John 1:24–28.
- **II. John the Baptist's explanation of the Messiah's identity:** John explained that when he was baptizing the Hebrew people, he was able to identify and present Jesus as Israel's Messiah and the prophesied Lamb of God—*John 1:29–34*.

Jesus was baptized so He could be presented to the nation Israel as her Messiah and as a clean and acceptable sacrifice to take away the sins of mankind. His public presentation as Israel's Messiah and the prophesied Lamb of God through His unique baptism would fulfill the righteousness referred to in Matthew 3:15.

Implications: This passage naturally causes us to consider the purpose(s) of water baptism.

- Christ's baptism was obviously unique, so we do not follow Christ into the waters of baptism.
- **2.** Water baptism is not a part of the Gospel message nor essential to receive eternal life—1 Corinthians 1:13–17a.
- 3. Water baptism is part of the Great Commission in Matthew 28:18–20 in the sense that it is an essential step in publicly identifying ourselves with Jesus Christ as part of the process of discipleship.

# **Notes**