

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 one of the additional Sunday activities listed below. All are great ways to connect with others in our church family as you grow in your relationship with Jesus. Pick up a *Guide to Grace Church* for more details!

Sundays



Our church family gathers for worship through Bible study and song at 9:00 or 10:30 AM.



Children, students, and adults meet at 9:00 or 10:30 for small group study and conversations.



Groups gather in homes on scheduled Sunday evenings to build relationships together.

Information



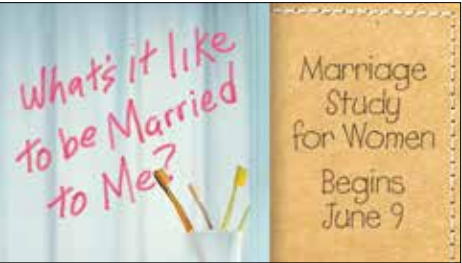
Bring a salad to share as we fellowship and re-connect with friends. Hear from our guest speakers about the joys and benefits of relationships. **June 28, 11:30 AM–1:00 PM.**



Join us for an exciting journey of Deep Sea Discovery at our Family VBS! This three-night event is designed for kids age 4 – 2nd grade and their parents to play and grow together.



Discover the joys of navigating our personal journeys together with women from different seasons of life. Begins July 5. **Tuesdays, 10:00–11:30 AM or 6:30–8:00 PM.**



You know what it's like to be married to your husband, but what is it like for him? Learn to have a marriage by *design*, not by default. **Thursdays, 10:00–11:30 AM or 6:30–8:00 PM.**

Grace Church

May 29, 2016



Today we begin our summer study of Jesus' parables. In this series, which runs through September 4, various members of our leadership team will teach selected passages highlighting the unique nature of these "teaching stories" told by the Savior and recorded in the Gospels.

News and Family Matters

Summer Guide Available Today

The summer 2016 edition of the Guide to Grace Church is available throughout the building today. This seasonal booklet includes not only our summer ministry calendar, but plenty of information to keep you informed about who we are—and where we're headed—as a church family. Please take as many as you need.

A complete list of summer activities, including links to sign up for studies and special events, is also available at our website, GraceChurch.com.

Support the Senior High Jamaica Mission Team

Dine out at Texas Roadhouse today (lunch or dinner) and a portion of the evening's proceeds will benefit our mission team—just let the hostess know you're with Grace Church!

Grace Church

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Lead Pastor

Reggie Coe
Family Pastor

Blake Boyd
Worship Leader

Brandon Carpenter
Senior Adults and
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George Castro
Junior High Pastor

Bill Daniel
Church Executive

Alli Fernberg
Women's Ministry
Director

Josh Fernberg
Children's Pastor

Caleb Levell
5th & 6th Grade
Ministry Coordinator

Curtis Lindsey
College and
Young Adults Pastor

Geoff Meador
Communications
Director

Nolen Smith
Senior High Pastor

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

Men

Samson Society

Thursday, 7:00–8:30 PM in the Library

College & Career

Summer Late Night

Tuesday, 7:00–9:00 PM at 4514 Barbados



It's summer time! Look for details about what's happening next in the summer 2016 edition of the *Guide to Grace Church* — available throughout the building today.

Adult Studies

Why I Still Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist

Wednesday, 6:30–8:00 PM in the Tejas Room

Financial Peace University

Thursday, 6:30–8:00 PM the Mesquite Room

This Morning

Lesson 1: The Parable of the Soils—*Matthew 13:1–23*

Tom Rodgers, Lead Pastor

- I. **The context of the parable:** Jesus began to teach in parables after being categorically rejected by the religious leaders of Israel as her Messiah—*Matthew 13:1–3a*.
- II. **The presentation of the parable:** The Savior presented an agriculturally-based parable about seed being sown on soil with varying conditions—*Matthew 13:3b–9*.
- III. **The explanation for parables:** Jesus explained that His use of parables was intended to conceal truth from those who had already rejected Him and to reveal truth to His disciples about how God would function in the world until His reception by Israel—*Matthew 13:10–17*.
 - A. **The question about parables:** His disciples asked the Lord for an explanation about His abrupt shift from straightforward teaching to the use of parables—*Matthew 13:10*.
 - B. **The explanation about parables:** Jesus explained that His parables reveal the way in which God will function in the world between the Messiah's first and second comings (the mystery form of the kingdom)—*Matthew 13:11*.
 - C. **The purpose of parables:** A parable is like a piece of one-way glass in revealing and concealing truth at the same time—*Matthew 13:12–13*.
 - D. **The parallel with Isaiah's generation:** Jesus saw His generation mirroring the prophet Isaiah's generation when Israel's rejection of the light resulted in spiritual darkness (cp. Isaiah 6:9–10)—*Matthew 13:14–15*.
 - E. **The timing of the parables:** The truths conveyed in Jesus' parables had been concealed from everyone until this specific time in the outworking of God's plan—*Matthew 13:16–17*.
- IV. **The explanation of the parable:** The Lord explained that the parable of the soils reveals that there will be at least four, different responses to the Word of God whenever it is presented in this inter-advent age—*Matthew 13:18–23*.
 - A. **Packed down soil:** The packed down soil represents a person whose heart is hardened to the Word with the result that Satan removes it—*Matthew 13:18–19*.
 - B. **Shallow soil:** The shallow soil represents a person who is quick to respond to the Word, but wilts under the heat of trials—*Matthew 13:20–21*.
 - C. **Thorny soil:** The thorn infested soil represents a person who initially assimilates the Word, but allows it to become unproductive when he becomes distracted or deceived by other concerns—*Matthew 13:22*.
 - D. **Fertile soil:** Fertile soil represents a person who prepares himself to take in and assimilate the Word, so that it bears fruit in his life—*Matthew 13:23*.

Notes

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