

# 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.

If you'd like to explore other options after the service, or if you have questions, please pick up the *Guide to Grace Church* at any exit or speak with a member of our Welcome Team in the hall.

When you're ready for the next step, we'd encourage you to check out a Bible Fellowship (Sunday mornings) or join a Community Group (Sunday nights). Both are great ways to connect with others as you grow in your relationship with Jesus.

# Notes

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# Information



Explore the prophecy inherent in the feasts of Israel. What historical event did each celebrate, how are they observed today, and to what future events do they point? Begins January 6.



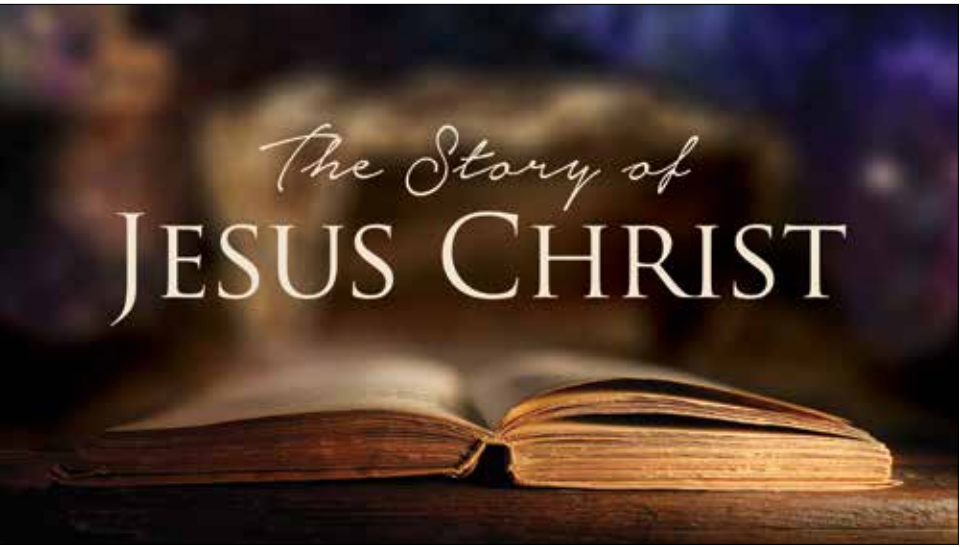
Walk with other couples through the book *What Did You Expect?* This study will challenge you to look into the mirror of God's Word and see yourself with clarity. Begins January 6.



This Wednesday study for women will help you understand why people do what they do. Help them see who they are in Christ and how to live out of their new nature. Begins January 6.



Discover how God has uniquely gifted you to serve Him and others in this Wednesday evening course. Enrollment is limited to eight participants.



This morning we continue our Christmas series, which explores the story of the Son of God beginning with His role in pre-history and concluding with His eternal future. We're glad you're here!

# Updates and Family Matters

### Christmas Worship Schedule

Our four-part Christmas series began on Sunday, December 13 and will continue through Sunday, December 27. We will gather together for worship at the following times:

Sunday, December 20	9:00 and 10:30 AM
Thursday, December 24	5:00 PM only
Sunday, December 27	10:30 AM only
Sunday, January 3	10:30 AM only

*Please note: there will be no Bible Fellowships on December 20, December 27, or January 3.*

### Nursery Volunteers Needed for Christmas Eve Service

We are in urgent need of volunteers to help provide care for infants during the Christmas Eve Service this Thursday. If you are interested in serving in this way, please contact Josh Fernberg at 940-704-7184 or josh@gracechurch.com

### Senior High Mission Team — Winter Work Projects

Our Senior High Jamaica team is raising money for their trip by doing odd jobs through the winter months. Schedule a job by picking up a request form in the Main Hall.

## Grace Church

5214 Stone Lake Drive  
Wichita Falls, TX 76310

940-692-4251

info@gracechurch.com

Grace Church Wichita Falls

@gracechurchwf

www.gracechurch.com

<p><b>Tom Rodgers</b> Lead Pastor</p> <p><b>Reggie Coe</b> Family Pastor</p> <p><b>Blake Boyd</b> Worship Leader</p> <p><b>Brandon Carpenter</b> Senior Adults and Christian Education Pastor</p> <p><b>George Castro</b> Junior High Pastor</p> <p><b>Bill Daniel</b> Church Executive</p> <p><b>Alli Fernberg</b> Women's Ministry Director</p>	<p><b>Josh Fernberg</b> Children's Pastor</p> <p><b>Caleb Levell</b> 5th &amp; 6th Grade Ministry Coordinator</p> <p><b>Curtis Lindsey</b> College and Young Adults Pastor</p> <p><b>Geoff Meador</b> Communications Director</p> <p><b>Nolen Smith</b> Senior High Pastor</p>
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# This Week

## Churchwide

### Worship Services

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

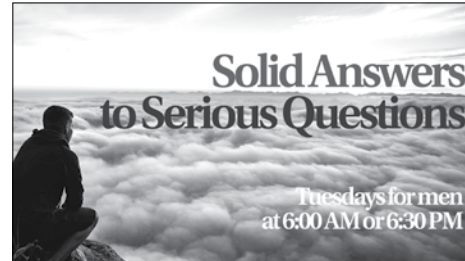
### Family Christmas Eve Service

Thursday, 5:00 PM in the Gymnasium

## Men's and Women's Studies Beginning January 7–19

We have several new opportunities in the spring semester for you to learn and grow on during the week. With groups that meet in the morning and evening, there's something to fit into any schedule. Get details or sign up in the Main Hall this morning!

# Coming Soon



# This Morning

## Lesson 2: Before His Incarnation, Part Two

Reggie Coe, Family Pastor

- I. The appearances of God in the Hebrew Scriptures were appearances of the second person of the Trinity, the pre-incarnate Christ—*John 1:18*.
  - A. No one has seen God the Father at anytime—*John 1:18a*.
  - B. Christ, the second person of the Trinity, has revealed Him to us—*John 1:18b*.
  - C. Every visible form of God in the OT is an appearance of the second person of the Trinity.
- II. The most common pre-incarnate appearances of Christ in the Older Testament came as the “Angel of the Lord”.
  - A. The first appearance of the “Angel of the Lord” came to Hagar as she fled from Sarah—*Genesis 16:7–13*.
    1. As the Angel of the Lord, He provided her with reassurance, protection and direction— *Genesis 16:7–12*.
    2. Hagar recognized His deity by calling Him “the God who sees”— *Genesis 16:13*.
  - B. He came to Abraham as the Angel of the Lord when Abraham was about to sacrifice Isaac on Mount Moriah—*Genesis 22:11–18*.
    1. As the Angel of the Lord, He provided another sacrifice— *Genesis 22:11–13*.
    2. Abraham acknowledged His deity by naming the place “Yahweh Yireh”- the Lord provides— *Genesis 22:14*.
    3. The Angel of the Lord reaffirmed the Abrahamic Covenant— *Genesis 22:15–18*.
  - C. The Angel of the Lord met with Moses and commissioned Him to deliver the nation of Israel from Egypt—*Exodus 3:2–6, 4, 18*.
    1. As the Angel of the Lord He gave Moses a destiny and a destination— *Exodus 3:2–5*.
    2. He revealed to Moses His name, “Yahweh”, as the covenant-keeping God— *Exodus 3:6, 14; see John 8:58*.
    3. The Angel of the Lord gave Moses his message and his mission— *Exodus 3:18*.
  - D. The Angel of the Lord led the people of Israel through the wilderness in the pillar of cloud by day and pillar of fire by night —*Exodus 13:21; 14:19*.
- III. The pre-incarnate Christ appeared to Joshua as the Captain of the Lord’s army—*Joshua 5:13–15*.
- IV. Isaiah saw the pre-incarnate Christ seated on a throne in all of His glory— *Isaiah 6:1–5*.
  - A. Isaiah saw the Lord in the midst of an angelic host who were praising God—*Isaiah 6:1–4*.
  - B. Isaiah knew that he had seen the Lord and he was undone by that experience—*Isaiah 6:5*.

Point: Before His birth in Bethlehem to Mary, the second person of the Trinity appeared to His people to comfort, provide, and protect them. They responded to the pre-incarnate Christ with worship, submission, and yieldedness.

# Advent, Week Four

In the fourth and final week of Advent, we reflect on love. We will examine what the Bible says about love, how God defines love, and how we ourselves are called to love.

## Monday: Matthew 22:36–40

What does this tell you about how God esteems love? How does this compare to how you value and strive to love in your life?

## Tuesday: 1 John 4:18–19

What does this tell us about where our own love comes from? What does this say about the relationship between love and fear? What fear are you facing in your own life that this verse might be addressing?

## Wednesday: 1 Corinthians 13:13

Why do you think love is so essential? What makes love necessary in discipleship?

## Thursday: 1 John 3:16

When you feel called to love, do you think of love in the way this verse describes it? Who in your life have you seen love in this manner?

## Friday: John 3:16

How does this verse shape your view of Christ’s coming? How can it help you celebrate the birth of Jesus this Christmas?

