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

Beginning Soon



Connect with other women for conversation and study as we discover God's great heart for His daughters and His true purpose for us as women. Begins January 11.



Join us this week for a study of *I'm Glad You Asked* by Ken Boa and Larry Moody. We'll discuss in-depth answers to difficult questions you may be asked about your faith. Resumes January 12.



Go deeper into what it means to put on the armor of God in all aspects of life with this video study by Priscilla Shirer. Begins January 19.



This ongoing group for moms will dig deeper into what God says about contentment and with Linda Dillow's *Calm My Anxious Heart*. Begins January 21.

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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



January 10, 2016



This morning we begin our study of the book of 1 John, which will continue through the spring. In this series, we'll learn how to fellowship with the Father and enjoy His free gift of eternal life in Jesus Christ. We're glad you've joined us!

Updates and Family Matters

Our Spring Semester is Underway

Some of this year's new studies and programs began last week, and several more begin in the next few days. It's not too late to get involved! Pick up a Spring Guide at any exit, visit an information table in the Main Hall, or get all the details online at **gracechurch.com**.

Disciple Now 2016 is Next Weekend

Please take a few moments during the week to pray for the students, leaders, and hosts involved in next weekend's Disciple Now. This annual event is an important and memorable part of our ministry in the lives of junior and senior high students. This year's theme is *I Surrender All*.

Later This Month



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

GriefShare

Sunday, 9:00-10:15 AM in the Library

Small Groups

Community Groups

Sunday, 5:30–7:30 PM at various homes

Adult Studies

The Book of Matthew

Wednesday, 6:30-7:30 AM in the Dining Room

The Feast Days of Israel

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

What Did You Expect?

Wednesday, 6:30-8:00 PM in Room 209

Men

Solid Answers to Serious Questions

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 the Tejas Room

Women

Engage: Understanding Purpose

Monday, 6:30-8:00 PM in Room 209

Understanding and Helping People

Wednesday, 6:30-8:00 PM in the Mesquite Room

Senior Adults

Tuesday Afternoon Study

Tuesday, 1:00-2:00 PM in Room 111

Senior High

Senior High Youth

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

Disciple Now

Friday-Sunday at The G.Y.M. and host homes

Junior High

Junior High Youth

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

Disciple Now

Friday-Sunday at The G.Y.M. and host homes

5th & 6th Grade

Breakaway

Wednesday, 6:30-8:00 PM in the Loft

Children

Kids' Quest

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

This Morning

Lesson 1: The Purpose of John's Letter—1 John 1:1-4

Tom Rodgers, Lead Pastor

- **The central subject:** The apostles had experienced an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ as the divine message of eternal life—1 John 1:1.
 - From a grammatical perspective, the "word of life" is a what, i.e. God's message about eternal life.
- From a contextual perspective, the "Word of life" is a who, i.e. Jesus Christ— John 1:1; Revelation 19:13.
- From a biblical perspective, the "Word of life" is both a *what* and a *who*, i.e. Jesus Christ is God's message about eternal life—1 John 5:11–12.
- **II.** The apostolic report: The apostles' observation of the fellowship that existed between the Father and His Son led John to record those principles of intimacy in this letter—1 John 1:2.
 - John observed the way in which the Father and Son enjoyed intimacy together and recorded those principles for our well-being.
- **III.** The specific purpose: John's purpose in writing this letter is to draw his redeemed readership into the same kind of intimacy with the Godhead that the apostolic circle had experienced with Jesus during his earthly ministry—1 John 1:3.
 - The fellowship, which the apostles experienced with the Son of God, is made available to us by following the principles recorded by the apostle John in this letter.
- **IV.** The resulting joy: John provided the principles to experience fellowship with God so His readers could experience the greatest possible joy in this life—1 John 1:4.
 - •The experience of joy in coming to faith in Jesus Christ is made complete or is fulfilled when we are able to enjoy a relationship of intimacy with God.

Discussion

These questions are offered each week to facilitate further discussion of this morning's topic in small group settings such as Community Groups or over dinner with family and friends. We hope you find them helpful to your spiritual growth.

- Have you ever daydreamed about being one of the original disciples? Without being there with Jesus physically, what do you feel you are missing out on?
- 2. How can the "Word of life" be both a what and a who in this passage? Use John 17:3 and 1 John 5:11–13 to discuss.
- 3. What do you think the difference is between having a relationship with God and having fellowship with Him? What is required of you in each?
- 4. What would we miss out on if we never moved from relationship to fellowship with God?