# 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**


# **Coming Soon**



Moms, dads, and others who care for kids: we hope you'll join us for this upcoming Saturday morning opportunity. Sign up in the Main Hall this morning if you plan to attend.

# Community Impact Team This team guides and monitors the effectiveness of financial support from Grace Church to other organizations in our community. We're looking for two couples with the time and energy to join us in this important process.

If you're interested in serving your church family and the Wichita Falls area community in this way, please contact Lynn Gills at the church office or by email at lynn@gracechurch.com.



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 with Linda Dillow's *Calm My Anxious Heart*. Begins January 21.

# **Grace** Church

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Lead Pastor

#### Reggie Coe Family Pastor

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Worship Leader

# Brandon Carpenter Senior Adults and Christian Education Pastor

**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



January 24, 2016



This morning we're continuing our study of the book of 1 John. 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**

Most of this year's new studies and programs began in the past several days, but 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.

#### **Family Matters**

Please pray for Kim and Tim Holmes as they grieve the passing of their son Mitchell.

# This Week

#### Churchwi<u>de</u>

#### **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

#### Safeguarding Your Children

Saturday, 10:00–12:00 AM in the Tejas Room

#### **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

#### The Armor of God

Tuesday, 10:00–11:30 AM or 6:30–8:00 PM in Room 208

#### Understanding and Helping People

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

#### **MOMs Study: Calm My Anxious Heart**

Thursday, 10:00-11:30 PM in Room 208

#### **Senior Adults**

#### **Tuesday Afternoon Study**

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

#### **College & Career**

#### **Late Night**

Tuesday, 7:00-8:30 PM at The G.Y.M.

#### **Senior High**

#### **Senior High Youth**

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

#### **Junior High**

#### **Junior High Youth**

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

#### 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 2: The First Step—1 John 1:5-2:2

Tom Rodgers, Lead Pastor

- I. The basis for fellowship with God: The disclosure about God's holiness is the basis for fellowship with Him—1 John 1:5.
- **II.** The principles of maintaining fellowship with God: There are three foundational principles essential to maintain fellowship with God—1 John 1:6–2:2.
  - **A. Note on structure:** This section contains three possible, yet false, claims about having fellowship with God, each of which is followed by the way to maintain fellowship with Him—1 John 1:6–2:2.
  - **B. Principle #1:** Walking in the light counteracts our natural tendency to avoid being exposed to the truth about our inherent sinfulness—1 John 1:6–7.
    - 1. We may falsely claim to be in fellowship with God at the same time we are closed to the possible exposure of sin in our lives—1 John 1:6a.
    - 2. To be closed to the possible eruption of sin in our lives, while claiming to have fellowship with God, is a lie and is inconsistent with the truth about the nature of indwelling sin—1 John 1:6b.
    - **3.** Living with an openness to the penetrating power of God's Word to expose sin in our lives allows us to maintain fellowship with Him—1 John 1:7.
  - C. Principle #2: Confessing known sins allows us to maintain fellowship with God and counteract our propensity to be deceived about our own sinfulness—1 John 1:8–9.
    - Because we are not conscious of any specific sin in our lives, we may erroneously insist that none exist—1 John 1:8a.
    - 2. To automatically assume that we have not personally sinned, because we are unaware of any, is a lie and indicates that God's Word is not directing our lives—1 John 1:8b.
    - **3.** God's provision to deal with known sins is to confess them to Him—1 John 1:9.
  - D. Principle #3: Jesus Christ's ministry as our Defense Attorney counteracts our natural tendency to deny our sins due to the fear of being rejected by God —1 John 1:10–2:2.
    - We may foolishly try to dismiss our sins, rather than confess them to God— 1 John 1:10a.
    - 2. To fail to confess exposed sins is essentially calling God a liar and indicates that His Word is not the guiding force in our lives—1 John 1:10b.
    - **3.** As our defense attorney, Jesus Christ intercedes for us regarding our failures, restoration, and future usability (Luke 22:31–32)—1 John 2:1–2.

# 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.

- What do you think actually happened to Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration (Matthew 17:1–2)? In what ways is God physical, moral, and intellectual *light*? Which do you think John has in mind in 1 John 1:5?
- **2.** How is God being *light* the basis for our fellowship with Him?
- 3. What is the underlying problem with making the claim mentioned in verse 6? How is the problem resolved in verse 7? What does it mean to "walk in the light," and what are the benefits of doing so?
- 4. Have you ever assumed you'd done something perfectly, but later discovered it didn't turn out that way? How does that experience affirm the truth found in verse 8? How does the promise in verse 9 help us address the fact that we aren't God and can't know everything—even about ourselves?
- 5. Why is a clear understanding of Jesus' role (1 John 2:1–2) important in developing a responsible, healthy attitude about our personal sins?