

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



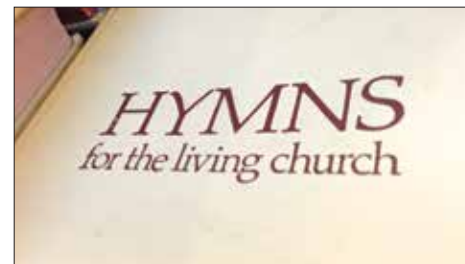
Registration is now open for the 2016 adult Jamaica Deaf Village trip. Get details or sign up at the information table in the Main Hall or by contacting Leah Walker at 940-692-4251 or leah@gracechurch.com.



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.



The coffee we enjoy on Sunday mornings is prepared by volunteers on a monthly rotating basis. If you're interested in serving in this way, please contact Julie Northcott at the church office or by email at julie@gracechurch.com.



We've removed a number of Grace Church hymnals from storage and are making them available to anyone who would like one. Pick yours up at the table in the Main Hall today.



January 31, 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

Jamaica Deaf Village Trip

This July, we will make our sixteenth annual adult trip to the Jamaica Deaf Village. The isolated island setting and the new relationships you'll form with your teammates provide a truly unique discipleship experience.

We'll work together on long-term construction projects, lead Bible studies and children's programs for the residents of the Deaf Village, and grow closer to God and each other throughout the week. The cool Jamaican evenings are the perfect setting for our group devotionals and outdoor worship.

No sign language, construction, or teaching experience is required—you'll pick up everything you need to know along the way! All you need is a heart willing to work and ready to experience what God has in store for you.



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Grace Church Wichita Falls



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Lead Pastor

Reggie Coe
Family Pastor

Blake Boyd
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

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

Women’s Community Group

Sunday, 5:30–7:30 PM in the Loft

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 4: Spiritual Health and the Allure of the Kosmos—*1 John 2:12–17*
Tom Rodgers, Lead Pastor

I. Affirming their spiritual strength: John affirmed his readers’ spiritual strength in being able to resist the temptation to live according to the values of the world system—*1 John 2:12–14*.

Note on the structure of verses 12–14: It is best to understand that John addresses his readers from three different perspectives (dependence, experience, and due to his use of the term “little children” in verse 18 to refer to the entire group.

Note on the change of verbal tenses in verses 12–14: The change from using the present tense (“I am writing”) in verses 12–13a to the aorist tense (“I have written”) in verses 13b–14 is to help John’s readers realize that they had become spiritually strong.

A. From the perspective of dependence: The readers were like children, who had grown from simply being forgiven of their sins (verse 12) to having an intimate relationship with the One Who had forgiven them (verse 13c).

B. From the perspective of experience: They were like fathers, who continued to deepen their personal relationship with Jesus Christ (verses 13a and 14a).

C. From the perspective of engagement: They were like young men engaged with life, who had grown in their ability to overcome the fresh attacks of the enemy (verses 13b and 14b).

II. Resisting the world system: We are warned against abandoning our fellowship with God by embracing the values of the fading world system—*1 John 2:15–17*.

A. Making a choice: If we fail to reject the world’s way of thinking, we’ll forfeit an in-depth experience of the Father’s love—*1 John 2:15*.

B. Understanding the kosmos: The world system is defined by three values, which define our thinking and shape our way of life—*1 John 2:16*.

“lust of the flesh”	the craving to satisfy the body’s appetites regardless
“lust of the eyes”	the craving to possess and hoard what we see regardless
“pride of life”	the drive to be independent of God and over others

C. Preserving our character: The world system is headed for extinction, but the character of the one who has been shaped by the revealed will of God in Scripture will last forever—*1 John 2:17*.

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.

1. When we think of ourselves as “little children”, how does knowing that our sins are forgiven and we are growing in our relationship with our heavenly Father, help us resist the temptation to live according to the lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, and the pride of life?

2. How does thinking of ourselves as “fathers”, who are gaining experience and wisdom, resist the temptation of the world system through a profound knowledge of God?

3. When we think of ourselves as “young men”, who are engaged with life, how does the process of acquiring spiritual strength by internalizing the Word help us overcome the enemy who governs the world system?

4. How did each of the three values of the world system (verse 16) cause Eve to wander off course in the Garden of Eden in Genesis 3:6? Which of the three elements of the world system causes you the most trouble on any given day?

5. Why do you think that a love of the world and a love of the Father are mutually exclusive? What do we need to do to develop a buffer against the world system?