# 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**


# **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. July 16–23.



Men, come build friendships and learn from guest speaker John Lynch during this weekend at Quartz Mountain Lodge in Oklahoma. \$175 covers your room and meals. Get details and sign up online or in the Main Hall today.



This three-week Wednesday evening class for women will help you understand others by associating them with easy-to-remember animals. March 23–April 6 at 6:30 PM, sign up online or in the Main Hall this morning!



This summer camp for teenagers in Glorieta, NM is built on the idea of being set apart for Jesus. Activities include hiking, watersports, skits, Bible study, and worship. \$150 non-refundable deposit due at registration by March 30.

# Grace Church

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Grace Church Wichita Falls



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# Tom Rodgers

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

**Nolen Smith** Senior High Pastor

Josh Fernberg

Caleb Levell

Children's Pastor

5th & 6th Grade

**Curtis Lindsey** 

**Geoff Meador** 

Communications

Pastor

Director

Ministry Coordinator

College and Young Adults



March 6, 2016



# **Updates and Family Matters**

Family, food, and fun!
This Wednesday
6:00-7:30 PM

# Spring Nights@Grace—Wednesday at 6:00 PM

We hope you'll make plans to join us for this year's Spring Nights@Grace, a fun evening for our entire church family to get together and enjoy a meal. Please be sure to sign up if you're coming!

# Senior HIgh Jamaica Trip Bake Sale

The Senior High Jamaica Team will be hosting a bake sale at Spring Nights@Grace. Don't forget to bring cash if you'd like a fresh-baked dessert!

#### Stack The Chairs

Please help us prepare the Gymnatorium for Spring Nights@Grace by stacking the chairs (seven high) after the second service. Thanks!

#### **Family Matters**

Congratulations to Chelsea & Conan Patterson on the birth of their daughter Adeline Irene Alexandra.

# 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

#### Spring Nights@Grace

Wednesday, 6:00–7:30 PM in the Gymnatorium

## **Small Groups**

#### **Community Groups**

Sunday, 5:30–7:30 PM in Various Homes

# Mer

### A Primer on Living in Grace

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

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

Thursday, 10:00-11:30 AM 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.

# **Junior High**

#### **Foundations Study**

Tuesday, 6:30-7:30 PM at 2921 Moffett

# **This Morning**

Lesson 9: What Agape-love Does for Us —1 John 3:19-23

Tom Rodgers, Lead Pastor

- What agape-love shows about us: The expression of agape-love indicates that we are actively participating in the truth—1 John 3:19a.
- **II. What agape-love** *assures* **us:** The expression of agape-love in our lives assures us that God has accepted us in spite of our faults, weaknesses, and failures—1 *John* 3:19b–20.
- **III.** What agape-love *provides* for us: Our assurance of acceptance before God engenders confidence to approach Him in prayer and receive affirmative answers to our requests—1 John 3:21–23.
  - **A.** When we're assured of our acceptance before God, we're emboldened to approach Him in prayer—1 John 3:21.
  - **B.** When we're emboldened to approach God in prayer, we're further assured of affirmative answers, because we're obeying Him and devoted to what's on His heart—1 John 3:22.
  - **C.** All the biblical commandments can be summarized into one: practice agape-love toward others and pray for them based on what Jesus Christ has provided for us— 1 John 3:23.

# 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. What are some of the things we can assume about ourselves, or even other people, when we observe concrete expressions of agape-love flowing out of our lives? How do expressions of agape-love demonstrate a personal kinship to the "truth"?
- 2. What does it do to us when we're not sure that we're acceptable to God? What matters or issues in our lives complicate His assurance? How do expressions of agapelove offer that assurance according to 1 Peter 4:8? How does God's knowledge of "all things", including our failures, flaws, etc., help us deal with the self-condemnation that we generate toward ourselves?
- 3. How does confidence to approach the Lord in prayer directly follow from knowing that we're acceptable to Him? In very practical terms, how does that work?
- **4.** On what conditions is the promise of affirmative answers to our requests based? What is involved in each condition? How do these conditions relate to the condition for answered prayer in John 15:7?
- 5. Since the word "in" is not in the original Greek phrase "believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ" in verse 23, the phrase refers to praying on the basis of what He has provided for us. What does that include according to Hebrews 4:16? How can the concepts of praying on the basis of what Jesus has provided for us and demonstrating agapelove be viewed as "one" commandment? How does your answer compare with Jesus' answer to the lawyer in Matthew 22:34–40?