



Grace Bible Fellowship

April 2026

April @ Grace...

April 1

No Bible Study

April 3

Good Friday Service @ 6:30pm

April 5

Resurrection Sunday – No SS

April 11

Men's Breakfast @ 8-10am

April 12

Prayer @5pm

Leadership Meeting @ 6pm

April 18

Women's Brunch @ 9-11am
(Lafferty Farm)

April 26

Mission's Giving (Campos)

May @ Grace...

May 1

Bonfire @ 6:30pm

May 10

Abigail Women's Collection Begins

May 13

PADS Night @ 5:30pm

May 17

Prayer @5pm

May 25

Office's Closed

May 31

Mission's Giving (Peterson)

Read the Bible: Where is the Meaning?

Last month, we asked the question, “What is expository preaching?” with the answer of, preaching that follows the pattern of the text. Continuing in our key themes of 2026 of *Read the Bible*, *Pray the Bible*, and *Preach the Bible*, my continued goal is to encourage you in our mutual commitment to God and his words. This month, we will look at the theme of *Read the Bible* by asking the question, “Where is the meaning?” By this question, I mean (ha!) that when we read the Bible we must look for what is being communicated, i.e. the meaning of the text. The question asks where we might find the meaning. There are two primary options that are popular in Bible studies around the world.

One primary option is that meaning is found in what the author intended. This view, which emphasizes the author's determination of the meaning, is called *authorial intent*. Under this view, asking, “Where is the meaning?” can be rephrased to ask, “What did the author mean?” The other primary option is that the meaning is found in the reader. This view, which emphasizes the reader's determination of the meaning, is called *reader response*. The question of the meaning's location is “What did this mean to you?” These questions are common in a number of Bible studies. How often have you seen or heard someone ask such questions? Which ones should we ask as we seek to discern what any given Bible passage actually means?

To help us answer this question, let us consider the concept of communication itself. For communication to occur, there must be a sender of the message, the recipient of the message, and the message itself.

Continued...

Consider a simple poem of love, as an example, where your loved one is the sender, you are the recipient, and the poem is the message. Knowing the author of the poem leads you to seek out what your loved one meant to communicate to you. The words, phrases, examples, etc. were all chosen by them to communicate something specific. You want to ask, “What did they mean?” because you care about them as the author of this message. However, if you just found a random love poem lying on the ground, you don’t know who the author is and likely don’t care. You could perhaps enjoy the poem and the beauty of the language, but you are ultimately free to ignore the author and supply your own meaning. Perhaps you find out who the author is but don’t like the meaning they intended. Same as before, the choice to ignore the author is the choice of *reader response*.

For the Bible, if it is a text with an unknown author, with no communication, with a meaning unimportant to you, then *reader response* might be your preferred method of finding meaning. However, we know that this book has God as its author, communicates the gospel of Jesus Christ, and the message, with all its meaning, is the most important one for you to receive. In order to find the meaning of any particular passage, you must ask the right question, “What does God mean when he says this?” We want the *authorial intent*, God’s intent, for his word.

In Christ, Pastor Nathan

Praying for Our Family...

- Pray for Pastor Nathan, Eric Bjerkaas, Jeff Schenck, and Don Faux, and Dan Kleinau as they continue in faithful leadership of the church.
- Pray for Pastor Nathan as he weekly prepares for the Sunday School, preaching the Word, and shepherding the body.
- Pray for Adler & Kailee Schreur’s new marriage.
- Praise the Lord that Don’s breathing is getting better and the cough has resolved.
- Pray for all those sick in body in the congregation.
- Pray for Christiane Cherny as she continues to carry new life inside her as well as the whole Cherny family as they prepare for their daughter’s arrival in late June/early July.
- Pray for the planning of and those preparing to teach and preach at the Women’s Retreat here in July. Pray for all those who will attend.
- Pray that as we hear the Word preached, our hearts and lives would be changed. Pray that we would be desiring God’s Word, growing in our love for one another, and seeking to serve the Lord well in our church and community.

Our Missionary Partners...

Sillas & Wanger Campos, Brazil

Karl & Glynn Peterson, South Africa, Mozambique

Destin & Jennifer Detwiler, To Every Tribe

Praying for those who serve...

Leadership

Pastor – Nathan Miller

Elder – Eric Bjerkaas

Deacons – Don Faux, Dan Kleinau, & Jeff Schenck

Ministry Volunteers

Eric & Andi, Paul & Renée, John & Mary, Dan & Christine, Matt & Rebekah, Jason & Amanda, Jeff S., Adam & Jill, Don & Angie, Aaron, Yessie, Valerie, Kris, Kailee, Robena, Jake & Christiane, Jeff W., Ethan, Caleb, Lydia, Marcos

Teachers

Pastor Nathan: Adult

Yessie Yanez: 2nd-4th grade

Amanda Lafferty: Pre-K – 1st grade

Dan Kleinau & Renee Kim: Children’s Church

Kris Wallin & Renee Kim: Wed. Kid’s Bible Study

2026 Special Events & Dates

April

3: Good Friday Service

5: Resurrection Sunday

11: Men's Breakfast

12: Prayer Service

18: Women's Bible Study

May

1: Bonfire

10: Prayer Service

13: PADS

17: Abigail Collection Start

June

7: Graduate Sunday

Church Picnic

14: Prayer Service

20: Women's Brunch

21: Abigail Collection Ends

July

12: Prayer Service

22: Semi-Annual Meeting

24-25: CGN Women's Retreat
(Details to come)

August:

9: Prayer Service

15: Women's Brunch

21: Game Night

September

2: Bible Study Resumes

13: Prayer Service

20: Cookout

PADS: TBD

October

CGN Men's Retreat: TBD

11: Prayer Service

17: Women's Brunch

21: Bonfire After Study

November

8: Prayer Service

18: Last Bible Study

PADS: TBD

22: Christmas Luncheon/Décor

29: Advent Begins

December

13: Prayer Service

24: Candlelight Service



Kid's Corner...

2nd-4th Grade:

This month, we read through several stories in Mark, like Jesus walking on water, feeding the 5000, and a life changing conversation he had with a Syrophoenician woman that brought forth the concept of how Jesus came to save Jew *and* Gentile! We are reminded that in any situation in life, Jesus is there and he can bring us peace in the middle of a storm. He cares for and has compassion for us, and for those who call on Him and trust him, he will be faithful to provide what we need!

~ Ms. Yessie

Pre-K-1st Grade:

We have continued in our study of the Pentateuch this month. We have talked about God's tricky, hairy, and blessed people from Genesis 25 and 27. We learned about tricky Jacob and hairy Esau and how the Lord's promises prevail even when human sin seems to derail things. We also talked about Genesis 28 and 32 and learned God reminded Jacob through dreams that he will keep his promises and continue to be with him. We learned about Jacob's ladder, his wrestling, bad hip, and his new name, Israel!

~Mrs. Lafferty

April

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 NO BIBLE STUDY	2	3 GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE @6:30PM	4
5 NO SUNDAY SCHOOL WORSHIP- 10AM	6 OFFICES CLOSED	7 PASTOR @CGN	8 BIBLE STUDY 6:30PM	9	10	11 MEN'S BREAKFAST @ 8-10AM @ GBF
12 SUNDAY SCHOOL- 9AM WORSHIP- 10AM PRAYER- 5PM LEADER MTG- 6	13	14	15 BIBLE STUDY 6:30PM	16	17	18 WOMEN'S BRUNCH 9-11AM @ LAFFERTY FARM
19 SUNDAY SCHOOL- 9AM WORSHIP- 10AM	20	21	22 BIBLE STUDY 6:30PM	23	24	25
26 SUNDAY SCHOOL- 9AM WORSHIP- 10AM MISSIONS GIVING (CAMPOS)	27	28	29 BIBLE STUDY 6:30PM	30		

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

11TH - JEFF WHITED
 12TH - LYDIA BJERKAAS
 28TH - ELI KRAMER