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## Calendar And Events

- February 3: Sunday Worship Service @ 9:00 a.m., (Agape Meal; No Sunday School).
- February 6: Student Ministry Gathering (grade 6-12) @ 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., Handke.
- February 10: Sunday Worship Service @ 9:00 a.m., Sunday School.
- February 13: Student Ministry Gathering (grade 6-12) @ 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., Handke.
- February 16: Student Ministries-CheapSkate. Feder's home. 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
- February 17: Sunday Worship Service @ 9:00 a.m., Sunday School.
- February 20: Student Ministry Gathering (grade 6-12) @ 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., Handke.
- February 23: Foundation Builders 3 Parenting Class @ the Feders Home. 9:30a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Babysitting available.
- February 24: Sunday Worship Service @ 9:00 a.m., Sunday School. Child Dedication Sunday.
- February 27: No Student Ministry Gathering



### Looking Ahead:

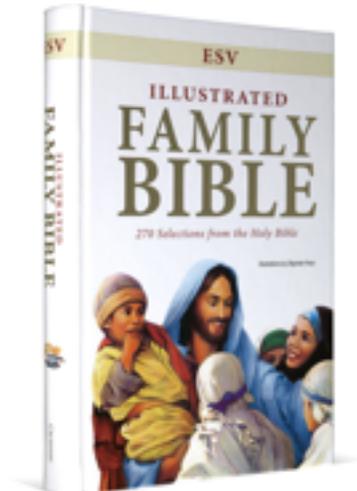
- March 2: 2nd Annual GCF marriage seminar. 3:00 p.m. @ Handke. Dinner and Bowling to follow.

## Resource Highlights:

### Big, Bold, Biblical Prayers for the Next Generation

by David Michael

This is a collection of prayers that are saturated in God's Word. As GCF strives to become a house of prayer the pastors invite you to use this resource in 2019 to aid you in praying for the next generation. Copies will be available on Sunday, February 10 for \$5 each.



### ESV Illustrated Family Bible Published by Crossway

The usefulness and uniqueness of this Bible is that it offers the real Bible text from the ESV in short daily reading sized chunks. 270 stories are selected in the order as they appear in the Bible. Users will notice that the text is only Scripture but certain sections within a story are left out that may be unrelated or distracting for younger readers. There is a picture for each story as well. This is a great resource ideal for family devotions.

# February Events and News

## **February 16 - CheapSkate**

**5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. @ the Feder's Home**

Students (and parents) are invited to come to the Feder's home on Saturday, February 16th and enjoy some cheap (actually, its free) ice skating, (weather permitting) dinner and games. We have a pond in our backyard with lights. Bring a hockey stick if you would like to play hockey. We may have extra skates/sticks for your use if you do not have any. Bring a snack to share. Please RSVP to Pastor Kevin by Wednesday, February 13th if you plan to attend.

## **February 23 Foundation Builders 3: Raising our Children to be Male or Female Disciples of Christ**

**9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. @ the Feder's Home**

This class will focus on husband's roles, wife's roles and how this relates to cultivating biblical masculinity and femininity into our children as part of their discipleship. The class will also give plenty of practical advice for how to cultivate masculinity and femininity into our children.

Babysitting will be available. Please R.S.V.P. to Pastor Kevin by Wednesday, February 20 if you would like to sign up for the class.

## **March 2 - Marriage Seminar**

**3:00 p.m. @ Handke (Room III)**

Marriage is about your holiness and not your happiness. True. But is there more? Is there biblical grounds to pursue happiness in your marriage? How? These are a few of the questions Pastor Charlie and Pastor Kevin will be wrestling with in our second annual Marriage Seminar on Saturday, March 2.

Schedule:

3:00 - 5:00 Teaching session with Pastor Charlie and Pastor Kevin

5:00 - 7:30 Couples are on their own for dinner (dinner is not included when you purchase a \$10 ticket)

7:30 - Bowling (location TBD)

Tickets are \$10 per couple and will be on sale on February 10, 17, and 24.

## MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

**Family Survey:** As GCF prepares to move on from Handke into our new space we would like to gather some information from our families about how we might more effectively utilize our building for discipleship and outreach. Please be on the lookout during the month of February for a survey from Pastor Kevin. We appreciate your feedback.

Here is one of the prayers from the highlighted resource titled Big, Bold, Biblical Prayers for the Next Generation. This particular prayer is written by Sally Michael.

### **A Prayer for Our Grandson, Joshua, with Wording from Psalm 119**

Dear God, may Joshua know the blessing of those who keep Your testimonies, and may he seek You with his whole heart. Help him to keep his way pure by guarding it according to Your Word. Help him store up Your Word in his heart so that he might not sin against You. Open his eyes, that he may behold wondrous things out of Your Law. Make Your testimonies his delight and his counselors. Enlarge his heart that he will run in the way of Your commandments. Give him understanding, that he may keep Your Law and observe it with his whole heart. Incline his heart to Your testimonies, and not to selfish gain! Turn his eyes from looking at worthless things; and give him life in Your ways. Amen.

 Blog - [www.gcfmn.blogspot.com](http://www.gcfmn.blogspot.com)

GCF is striving to become a house of prayer, and no doubt, one of our biggest target areas of prayer is our children. Our precious children who come into the world so completely helpless and cute. Pretty soon they are not so cute and parents and children alike need plenty of prayer. Can I get an AMEN? Ok, I will trust that heaven recorded a unanimous round of Amen in perfect unison from parents everywhere on that point.

It is completely natural for parents to pray for their children out of necessity. What do I mean by this? I mean parents pray because they are naturally prompted to do so. They love their child. They feel scared for them. They want them to be safe. They want them to succeed. They want them to behave normally. They want many things for which they feel completely powerless (especially for normal behavior:) and prayer is the natural progression.

But does the Bible envision more? Does Scripture prioritize safety and success as highly as we do? When we get beyond the "tyranny of the urgent" are there biblical ideas or themes that we are neglecting in our prayers for our children?

Perhaps. But why does it matter? Isn't it enough that I pray for my children? Why does it have to match up so much with Scripture and God-centered and Christ-exalting and all that? Here are a few reasons it matters that our prayers are lining up with Biblical ideas:

#### **Power**

Do you want power in your prayers? Maybe that is a silly question. Of course you do. They need to be biblical, then. God is pleased to take the word he has inspired and bless it when believers cling to it in faith.

Additionally, it can be hard to know what to pray for our children/youth. Prayer can feel a lot like meal planning, can't it? Most households eat the...

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