# 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**

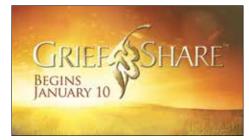

# **Information**



Our Senior High Jamaica team is raising money for their trip by doing odd jobs through the winter months. Schedule a job by picking up a request form in the Main Hall.



This mid-week musical singalong features traditional Christmas favorites performed by members of our church family. Join us for an extra dose of holiday cheer!



If you are struggling with the loss of a loved one and the facing the holiday season is difficult, know you are not alone. Come talk through the pain with others at GriefShare next month.



Please take note of the list of upcoming service dates and times on the front page of this week's bulletin. We hope you'll join us whenever your schedule allows during this busy season.

# **Grace** Church

5214 Stone Lake Drive Wichita Falls, TX 76310



940-692-4251



info@gracechurch.com



**Grace Church Wichita Falls** 



@gracechurchwf



www.gracechurch.com

## 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

### Josh Fernberg Children's Pastor

## Caleb Levell

5th & 6th Grade Ministry Coordinator

## **Curtis Lindsey**

College and Young Adults Pastor

## Geoff Meador

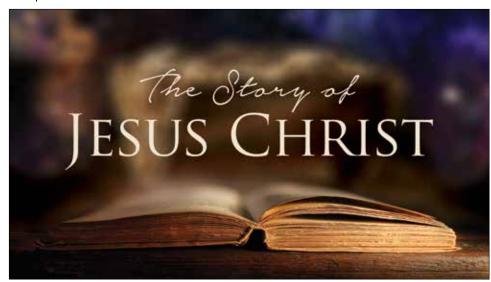
Communications Director

# Nolen Smith

Senior High Pastor



December 13, 2015



This morning we finish our study of the book of 1 Corinthians, which began in January and resumed in September after a summer break. If you'd like to catch up on previous lessons, listen online any time at gracechurch.com/podcast. We're glad you're here!

# **Updates and Family Matters**

#### **Winter Guide Available Today**

The Winter 2015 Supplement to the Guide to Grace Church is now available near each exit. This one-page calendar will keep you and your family informed of Christmas activities happening in the month of December. Spring 2016 info will be available in a few weeks!

#### **Christmas Worship Schedule**

Our four-part Christmas series will begin on Sunday, December 13 and continue through Sunday, December 27. We will gather together for worship at the following times:

Sunday, December 13	9:00 and 10:30 AM
Sunday, December 20	9:00 and 10:30 AM
Thursday, December 24	5:00 PM only
Sunday, December 27	10:30 AM only
Sunday, January 3	10:30 AM only

Please note: there will be no Bible Fellowships on December 20, December 27, or January 3.

# 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

#### **Hymns for Him Christmas**

Wednesday, 6:30-8:30 PM in the Loft

## Small Groups

### **Women's Community Group**

Sunday, 5:30-7:30 PM in the Loft

## Men

### **Samson Society**

Thursday, 7:00–8:30 PM in the Library

# **Coming Soon**

#### Wednesday Night Studies Begin January 6

We have several new opportunities in the spring semester for you to learn and grow on Wednesday nights. If you're looking for deeper biblical knowledge, a better understanding of yourself and others, or relationship guidance, consider making the time to attend. Get details and sign up in the Main Hall this morning!









# **This Morning**

Lesson 1: Before His Incarnation, Part One—John 1:1-3

Tom Rodgers, Lead Pastor

- The Word and God: The Word eternally exists as a co-equal member of the Godhead— John 1:1.
  - **A. His preexistence:** Before the present kosmos came into existence, the Son of God already existed (Micah 5:2).
  - **B. His name:** Before His incarnation and the creation of the present kosmos, the Son of God was known as the Word (Greek *logos*).
  - His deity: The Word (Logos) is part of the triune Godhead or trinity, which is a non-biblical term used to describe the one true God Who eternally exists in three distinct persons.
    - 1. The Bible teaches that there is only one true God—Deuteronomy 4:35.
    - 2. The Bible refers to three distinct persons as God (the Father—John 6:27; the Son—Titus 2:13; the Spirit—Acts 5:3–4).
  - **3.** The Bible specifies that these three distinct persons make up the Godhead—*Isaiah* 6:3 and Matthew 28:19.
  - **4.** The conclusion is that "there is only one God, but in the unity of the Godhead there are three eternal and co-equal Persons, the same in substance, but distinct in subsistence" (Charles C. Ryrie).
  - D. His eternality: Before His incarnation, the Son of God has always existed— Psalm 90:2; John 8:58.
  - **E. His activity:** Throughout eternity past, God the Son basked in the beauty and integrity of the trinity and savored the divine knowledge to plan the best possible world out of all the infinite number of options.He wanted them sent along their way well
    - 1. Regarding beauty and integrity: Along with the entire trinity, the Son of God possesses an infinite degree of beauty and integrity and an infinite capacity to appreciate both.
    - 2. Regarding knowledge and wisdom: As part of the triune Godhead, the Son of God innately knows everything, both actual and possible, and how best to use it to plan the best possible world.
  - **F. The Word and Creation:** The Word was the divine agent through which the created order was spoken into existence (Colossians 1:15-17)—*John 1:2-3.*

# Advent, Week Three

As we enter Week Three of this Advent season, we examine the spiritual discipline of joy. We look at what the Scriptures say about joy as it relates to our circumstances and emotions, as well as how and when we are called to rejoice.

### Monday: Psalm 118:24

What does this verse tell you about joy? How can this help you to practice rejoicing?

## Tuesday: Psalm 4:6-8

What does David say is the source of our joy? Where is this evident in your own life?

### Wednesday: Psalm 27:5-7

What affect should dark or unsettling circumstances have on our joy? Do you ever let circumstances or fear rob you of joy?

#### Thursday: 1 Peter 4:13

Why does Peter tell us that we should rejoice in suffering? What does it mean to share in Christ's suffering?

### Friday: Isaiah 35:10

What is the source of joy in this verse? How can you relate right now to the people experiencing joy here?

#### Saturday: 1 John 1:1-4

What does John say brings their completeness of joy? How can you pursue this kind of joy?

