



GRACE NOTES

May 2016

Elder retreat provides God centered study, planning and fellowship

By Roy Layman

The elder team, including myself, Jeff Crelia, Theron Whitley and Brent Wilkens, recently went on our annual weekend retreat. We tent camped, fished, and hiked along the Buffalo River in Arkansas. Our retreat times are a time to discuss God's work at Grace Bible, have fun, and build relationships with one another for God's glory.

Included in our discussions were: seeker sensitive methodology, equipping the saints - starting with us, improving church processes while updating tools, and beginning elder led prayer gatherings. For a recap of these topics, please see page 2. RIGHT: Brent, Theron and Jeff.



"And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus."

Happy Mothers' Day

Sunday, May 8

To better support Gunter Parks Foundation Playground Construction, we will not have regularly scheduled Wednesday night Impact or Student Ministry on [Wednesday, May 18](#).

We ask that all (of age) students and leaders volunteer some time to park construction that evening.

Also, our church facility will be being used for childcare for kids whose parents are helping to build the playground that entire week.

Several GBF small groups are planning to serve together. There are still multiple ways to help.

Find out more here <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0b4bada923abff2-volunteer>



Seeker sensitive?

Prior to our retreat, we read an encouraging, challenging book, The Prodigal Church. The book brings in to question some methodologies in church ministry. Specifically is being “seeker sensitive” or “attractional” truly effective in making disciples of Jesus Christ? Author Jared Wilson, while acknowledging that the motivation behind such movements is probably good, would say no. Turns out the old adage “whatever you win them with, you also win them to” may be true. We need to focus on the main thing, *the Gospel*, and making disciples of Jesus Christ. We don't *just* need a doctrinal statement that rightly states sound doctrine, we need that doctrine to be front and center. Our message needs to focus on Christ, and we need to proclaim things that would not be possible if it weren't for Him. In a world where popular opinion is constantly changing, we need to stay rooted in the truth. And we need to share that truth with love and grace.

Equipping the saints — starting with the elders

And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ... (Ephesians 4:11-12 ESV)

Like Jesus, in Matthew 28:19-20, the apostle Paul taught that the purpose of the church was to make disciples or as he puts it “equip the saints.”

At our retreat we discussed how being a disciple involves the whole person: HEAD, HEART, & HANDS.

- Head - things you need to know (knowledge, sound doctrine, orthodox, being biblically informed)
- Heart - who you need to be (devoted, affectionate toward God, loving others, inside-out heart change)
- Hands - never grow stagnant in our faith, follow the example of our Savior and serve the church, our neighbor, and the world.

As elders, it our responsibility to always lead by example (1Peter 5:3). We outlined a plan to, by God's grace, inform our heads, change our hearts, and use our hands for His Glory. We began reading and studying, 20 Basics Every Christian Should Know, by Wayne Grudem. As elders we “are the doctrinal guardians of the flock and the overseers of the life of the church responsible to God for the feeding and care and ministry of the people.” (John Piper). Every Christian should know their doctrine, but this is ESPECIALLY true of the elder.

Next, we'll begin a study more focused on our HEARTS, Steps - Gospel-Centered Recovery. This in-depth study involves reflection, prayer, and thought. It will challenge us to deal with our sin in a deeper, healthier way. (A bi-product of this study is that it will equip us to help others deal with their own hurts, habits, and hang-ups as well.)

After completing the *Steps* study (13 weeks), we will return to the 20 Christian Beliefs and complete it. As we do these studies, it's important to remember that study is not a replacement for serving. We need to continue to actively engage in the life of the church and use the spiritual gifts that God has given us. We also discussed plans to better serve and equip our Grace Group leaders, and raise expectations for what our Grace Groups are accomplishing.

Improving processes/updating tools

While we see no need for extra bells and whistles or the need to “awe” our guests with how slick we are, we do see the need to improve our use of technology where it is sensible and cost effective. With that in mind, GBF will begin exploring a process of going “paperless” in our Sunday services, including the use of tablets and keyboards for connection centers to keep records of guests and making use of our space to display current announcements, upcoming dates to remember, and volunteer opportunities. Online/electronic giving will remain readily accessible for people to make financial contributions to the Lord's work.

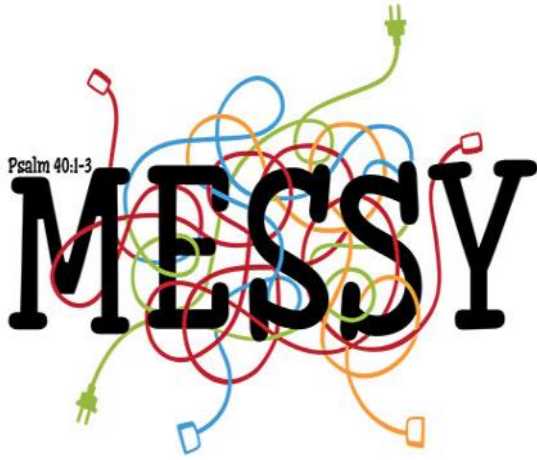
Elder led prayer

We would like to have some church-wide prayer gatherings in the future. We discussed potentially using Wednesday evenings on a quarterly basis. These gatherings will correlate with our current prayer ministry and include worship in singing and leading attendees through a series of prayer needs. We believe these gatherings would be a blessing as well as a teaching tool. More about this in the Fall of 2016.

I speak for our entire elder team when I say that it is an honor and a privilege to serve as undershepherds for the Chief Shepherd (1Peter 5:1-4). We love our church and are confident in the promises of God, His Word, and His grace toward our church family in the future.

Christ is all!

Roy



JULY 11 - 14

**For Students entering 3rd
through 6th grade**

AUSTIN COLLEGE IN SHERMAN

Student Life for Kids Camp! Sign up by visiting <http://gbfkids.blogspot.com> and clicking on Camp Sign Up or Contact Nikki 214-592-7091 or nikki@thegbf.com

See page 4 to participate in the baked good auction supporting student Life Camp!

When a man follows the principles of biblical manhood, those around him benefit from his leadership and care. Kingdom Man challenges and equips men to fully understand their position under God as well as their position over what God has given them. The biblical definition of a man is one who has learned to operate under the authority of Jesus Christ while carrying out responsible and legitimate leadership within the sphere of influence that God has placed him. Kingdom Man provides concepts men can follow that will help them to actively pursue ways to maximize and develop the character qualities of biblical manhood in their lives.

Beginning January 5, Roy will be leading a Men's Bible Study using the book Kingdom Man, by Tony Evans, as a guide.

The men will cover and discuss the topics addressed in the book, one chapter a week. Men are encouraged to buy the book, but not required to.

The study will meet TUESDAY MORNINGS, from 6 - 7 am, at the church, south hallway entrance, 4th room on right. All men are invited. No dress code, age, marital status, or level of Bible knowledge required.

If your work schedule prohibits you from coming every week, come once, or twice, or as often as you can. The only prerequisite is that you be a man who admits you need God, be willing to learn more about Him and His plan for your life.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY @ GBF

TUESDAYS, 6 - 7 AM

**STUDY: Kingdom Man
by Tony Evans**

You can buy the book here
http://www.amazon.com/Kingdom-Man-Every-Destiny-Womans/dp/1589977475/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1448985953&sr=8-1&keywords=kingdom+man



Mega Sports Camp

Pre-K through 6th Graders

June 28 - 30 ★ 5 - 8 pm



Kick off/Registration Event

Monday, June 27 ★ 6 - 8 pm

water slides

bounce houses

hot dogs & chips

popsicles

gbf grace bible fellowship Student Facebook + Life Baked Goods AUCTION

auction will begin Saturday, May 7th at 9 am
and will stop on Sunday, May 8th at 9 am!

What we need!

1) We will need a group of volunteers to bring baked (or smoked) goods to be auctioned (brisket, casserole, cake, pie, cookies, etc). Sign up to bring an item by texting Jynna Duarte.

2) Volunteers must take a picture of your item and text it to Jynna Duarte by 8am Saturday 5/7. All items must be brought to GBF Sunday morning by 10am or can be dropped off to Jynna prior to Sunday. If you are unable to bring your item, please contact us for pick up.
Jynna's cell- 903-413-0460.

How it Works!

- 1) After baked items have been photographed, an album containing the pictures will be uploaded to the Grace Bible Fellowship Facebook page.
- 2) Bidding will begin at 9am on Saturday 5/7 and end on Sunday 5/8 at 9am.
- 3) To place a bid, go to Grace Bible Fellowship's Facebook page and find the album containing the photos of the baked goods, click on the photo that you would like to bid on and underneath the picture, comment with your bid. To outbid the previous bid just place a higher bid and enter it into the thread.
- 4) Winners will be announced on Facebook immediately following the auction.
- 5) Baked goods must be picked up and paid for on Sunday, May 8th prior to or after church services.

Please contact Jynna Duarte at 903-413-0460 (text or call) or email: jynnad@hotmail.com with ?s



Welcome, Baby Girl

Georgia Jane Egger

April 21, 2016

8 pounds, 22 inches

Big Sister: Charlotte

Parents: Jeff and Becca Egger

Congratulations!

IMPACT

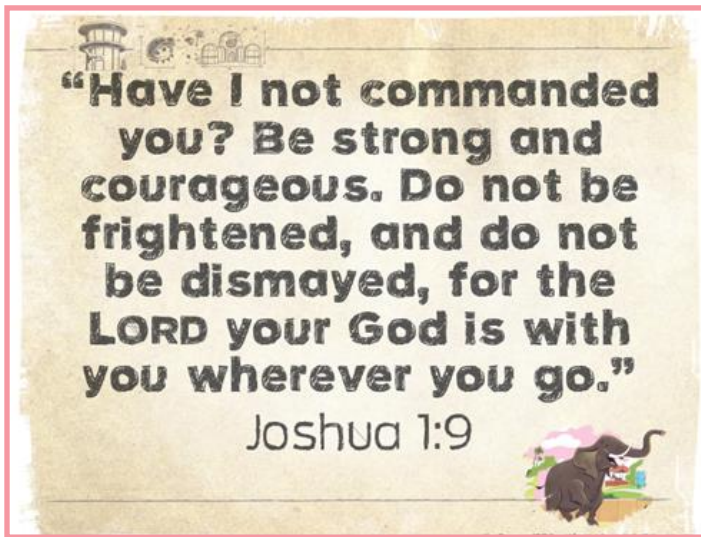


Grading - Learning



SET+APART





MAY GRACE KIDS

Joshua and Caleb

BIBLE PASSAGE:	Numbers 13:1–14:38
MAIN POINT:	The Israelites did not trust God to give them the promised land.
KEY PASSAGE:	Joshua 1:9
BIG PICTURE ?:	Whom can we trust? We can trust God to take care of us.

The Bronze Snake

BIBLE PASSAGE:	Numbers 20:1-20; 21:4-9
MAIN POINT:	God told His people to look at the bronze snake to be healed.
KEY PASSAGE:	Joshua 1:9
BIG PICTURE ?:	Whom can we trust? We can trust God to take care of us.

The Promised Land and Jericho

BIBLE PASSAGE:	Joshua 2–4; 6
MAIN POINT:	God fought for His people and led them into the promised land.
KEY PASSAGE:	Joshua 1:9
BIG PICTURE ?:	Whom can we trust? We can trust God to take care of us.

GRACE KIDS

SMALL GROUP LEADERS FOR

MAY

Pre-K/Kindergarten:	Sydney & Caroline
1st & 2nd Grade:	Mandy
3rd & 4th Grade Girls:	Hailey and Addie T.
3rd & 4th Grade Boys:	Cade



STUDENT MINISTRY

Breakaway Weekend April 30 – May 1!

Please be in prayer for our students and student ministry leadership while they are attending Breakaway this weekend!



Breakaway Weekend is a time for students to grow closer to God, to each other, to their leaders, all in a setting that is fun for everyone involved! In short, it is a time for students to break away from the influences that discourage them as young Christians, and a time to be encouraged by the love of God, their leaders, and one another.



We have started our new series based out of the book of Daniel called "Set Apart."

Romans 12:2 says, "Do not be conformed to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind." Christians will never bring the world to God by becoming just like them. We are to be something different than what we see in the world around us. The life of a Christian is counter-cultural.

In the book of Daniel, we see many examples of how a young person living in culture that does not honor God can still live a life that is God glorifying.

High School Bible Study (9th-12th grade)
Sunday Nights from 7:00 - 8:30 pm
at The Layman's house



STUDENT MINISTRY UPDATE

BY PRICE FERRELL

GBF Student Ministry is currently working through a series called Set Apart. As we walk through the book of Daniel we are seeing what it looks like to live a life set apart for God. Christians will never bring the world to God by becoming just like them. We are called to be something different than what we see in the world around us. The life of a Christian is a life that is counter-cultural. Below is an article addressing this very topic from the website www.gotquestions.org. . Enjoy!

Question: "How can believers be in the world, but not of the world?"

Answer: When we read of the "world" in the New Testament, we are reading the Greek word *cosmos*. *Cosmos* most often refers to the inhabited earth and the people who live on the earth, which functions apart from God. Satan is the ruler of this "cosmos" (John 12:31; 16:11; 1 John 5:19). By the simple definition that the word *world* refers to a world system ruled by Satan, we can more readily appreciate Christ's claims that believers are no longer of the world - we are no longer ruled by sin, nor are we bound by the principles of the world. In addition, we are being changed into the image of Christ, causing our interest in the things of the world to become less and less as we mature in Christ.

Believers in Jesus Christ are simply in the world—physically present—but not of it, not part of its values (John 17:14-15). As believers, we should be set apart from the world. This is the meaning of being holy and living a holy, righteous life - to be set apart. We are not to engage in the sinful activities the world promotes, nor are we to retain the insipid, corrupt mind that the world creates. Rather, we are to conform ourselves, and our minds, to that of Jesus Christ (Romans 12:1-2).

We must also understand that being in the world, but not of it, is necessary if we are to be a light to those who are in spiritual darkness. We are to live in such a way that those outside the faith see our good deeds and our manner and know that there is something "different" about us. Christians who make every effort to live, think and act like those who do not know Christ do Him a great disservice. Even the heathen knows that "by their fruits you shall know them," and as Christians, we should exhibit the fruit of the Spirit within us.

Being "in" the world also means we can enjoy the things of the world, such as the beautiful creation God has given us, but we are not to immerse ourselves in what the world values, nor are we to chase after worldly pleasures. Pleasure is no longer our calling in life, as it once was, but rather the worship of God.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- **May 18:** No Wednesday night activities. This is a church wide event where we will be at the park helping out however we can.
- **May 25:** Making a Music Video: Every year at the end of the school year, we do some event to put an exclamation point on the year. This year, we are making music videos. Everyone will meet up at the church and then go with their small group leader to make their music video. The videos will be edited by Carney and judged by other nonbiased members of GBF. More thorough details and instructions will come as we get closer to this event.
- **June 1:** Last Wednesday night gathering. There will be food and drinks provided.



Price speaks to the youth on Night of Worship (NOW) where students and leaders gather to pray, sing worship songs and share testimonies.

GRACEGROUPS

At GBF we firmly believe that the grace of God has the power to transform lives. Our home groups are where much of that power is able to take effect. Current **GraceGroups** are wrapping up for this semester, but we are in need of more homes and leaders for next fall. Please be in prayer about joining a GraceGroup or volunteering to be a leader. Below is a list of leaders, study topics, meeting times and places. If you are interested in leading a group, please contact Rick Nevil or Theron - james.t.whitley@gmail.com

Women's Bible Study

225-933-4204

215 Preston Glen
Tuesdays @ 6:30 pm

Women's Bible Study

Shelly Baird

903-819-2074

105 Forest Meadows Dr.
Friday 9-11 am

Justin & Keelie Ferguson

903-821-3371

10434 Hwy 289
Sundays, 5 - 7:30 pm

Jason & Nikki Waligura

214-587-1427

82 Forest Hills Circle
Every other Sunday,
6 - 7:30 pm

Jarod & Lara Martin

903-815-0562

413 Autry Blvd
Sundays, 6 - 7:30 pm

KINGDOM MAN

Roy Layman

roy@thegbf.com
GBF
Tuesdays @ 6 am

PRAYERS OF PAUL

Rick & Nancy Nevil

469-401-2615

699 Wallace Road
Wednesdays @ 6:30 pm

Jason Carney

903-819-8087

107 Arrowhead Dr
Every other Sunday @ 5 pm

Jeff & Amy Crelia

Gane & Kris Roberts

903-815-1182

515 Kerfoot Drive
Every Other Wednesday
6:30 pm



An opportunity to bless others...



Help Kris battle
Ovarian Cancer again!

<https://www.youcaring.com/kris-roberts-435881>

Prayer Ministry

What this is: Praying for the service, for our pastor and for the church body during the Sunday morning service.

Get involved: If you would like to be a part of our Sunday morning prayer team please sign up in the kitchen this Sunday and you will be contacted with further information.

If you are interested in hearing more about the prayer ministry or have questions, please contact Keelie (903-821-3371) or Karen (972- 971-2652)

Contact Us

www.thegbf.com

Phone: 903.433.1732

Grace Bible Fellowship
101 West Pecan, P.O. Box 96
Gunter, Texas 75058

Senior Pastor: Roy Layman

Elders: Brent Wilkens, Jeff Crelia
Theron Whitley, Roy Layman



*Each of you should use whatever gift you
have received to serve others,
as faithful stewards of God's grace
in its various forms. 1 Peter 4:10*

Volunteers are needed in the following areas.
Please be in prayer about these opportunities
to serve.

- Make coffee on Sunday mornings. Sign up for one Sunday, weekly or monthly. It is simple and the directions are in the kitchen.
- Clean and organize the kitchen once a month.
- Update the bulletin boards in the hallways once a month.

Email Lara (lara@thegbf.com) for more information regarding these opportunities.

Your help is greatly appreciated!

Follow Pastor Roy's blog

<http://roylayman.wordpress.com>

where he shares resources,
Grace Bible church life, and pastoral
insights from a small church pastor
in a mega-church world.

You can also access the blog
by going to the church website

www.thegbf.com

May 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 	2	3	4	5	6	7 Baked Goods Auction thru 5/8 
8 FAMILY WORSHIP 10:45 am MOTHER'S DAY Youth Bible Study 7 pm	9	10 Men's Bible Study 6 am Women's Bible Study, 6:30 pm	11 IMPACT 252 6:30 pm STUDENT MINISTRY 6:30 pm	12	13	14
15 FAMILY WORSHIP 10:45 am Youth Bible Study 7 pm	16	17 Men's Bible Study 6 am Women's Bible Study, 6:30 pm	18 No Wednesday Activities for City Park Construction	19	20	21
22 FAMILY WORSHIP 10:45 am GISD Baccalaureate 6 pm	23	24 Men's Bible Study 6 am Women's Bible Study, 6:30 pm	25 IMPACT 252 6:30 pm STUDENT MINISTRY 6:30 pm: Making a Music Video	26	27 GISD Bad Weather Day	28
29 FAMILY WORSHIP 10:45 am Youth Bible Study 7 pm	30 	31 Men's Bible Study 6 am GISD Class of 2016 Graduation, 2 pm	1 Night of Worship, 6:30 pm Last meeting for IMPACT and Student Ministry	2	3	4