



GRACE NOTES

December 2016

From Pastor Roy....

I'm really excited about our current Advent series! Advent simply means "coming." It is the season leading up to Christmas, when the church takes time to celebrate the first coming of Christ, and look forward to the second. In our series, we will be looking at 5 gifts that Christ brings to our lives:



The Hope That Christ Brings
The Peace That Christ Brings
The Love That Christ Brings
The Joy That Christ Brings
That LIGHT That Christ Brings
(Christmas Eve)

My prayer for Grace Bible is that we not merely make it through the Christmas season without being consumed by the materialism that is all around us, but that our relationship with God THRIVE during this season. That we make use of the time leading up to Christmas to give special attention to our Savior. That we be MORE reflective, MORE devoted, MORE worshipful, and OVERFLOWING with Christ's love in our lives.

Join us for the Sundays leading up to Christmas, and of course, for Christmas Eve at 5:30pm!



We will not be gathering for corporate worship on Christmas Day - Sunday, December 25.

Our Christmas Eve worship service is typically a great joy and very well attended. One of the things that makes it so special is having the majority of the church family together for that special time. Our thought is, if we have a service on both Saturday evening (Christmas Eve) and Sunday morning (Christmas Day) many will pick one service or the other and we may not ever all be there at once. So in the spirit of "the assembly" we have opted to only have one service, Christmas Eve. And it's going to be a great service, by the way!

Please make plans to join us at 5:30 pm on Christmas Eve, and enjoy time with The Lord and with your family wherever you choose to celebrate the birth of Christ on December 25.



GBF ANGEL TREE

The angel tree will begin this Sunday, December 4,
and continue through Sunday, December 11.

Choose an angel from the tree at church.
Sign for your angel at the table near the tree.

All gifts **MUST** be wrapped and returned
to GBF by Sunday morning, December 18.
Please attach your angel to the gift.

Gracekids
recently recited
catechisms
during worship.

Great Job!



GRACE groups

Ten GraceGroups have organized and began meeting in September. Leaders are needed so we can form new groups and get even more members involved.

If you are interested in leading, please fill out the application at this link:

<http://thegbf.com/grace-group-leader-application/>
and contact lara@thegbf.com.

Below is a list of groups currently meeting.

Jarod & Lara Martin: Recovery Redemption: How Christ Changes Everything

Benny & Tina Hood: Recovery Redemption: How Christ Changes Everything

Rick & Nancy Nevil: Forgotten God: Reversing Our Tragic Neglect of the Holy Spirit

Mark Hales: Acts 1-12

Jason & Nikki Waligura: Prayers with Paul: A Call to Spiritual Reformation

Cory & Jen Brinkman: True Spirituality - Romans 12


Tina Hood: STEPS
(women's bible study)

Nancy Nevil: Fervent: A Woman's Battle Plan to Serious, Specific and Strategic Prayer
(women's bible study)

Jon Stovall: Stepping Up: A Call To Courageous Manhood
(men's bible study)
Mondays @ 7 pm, GBF

Roy Layman: Stepping Up: A Call To Courageous Manhood
(men's bible study)
Tuesdays @ 6 am, GBF

If you are interested in taking over the publication of Grace Notes beginning in January, please contact carrie3016@gmail.com.



STEPPING UP
A CALL TO COURAGEOUS MANHOOD

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY
meeting at GBF

STEPPING UP

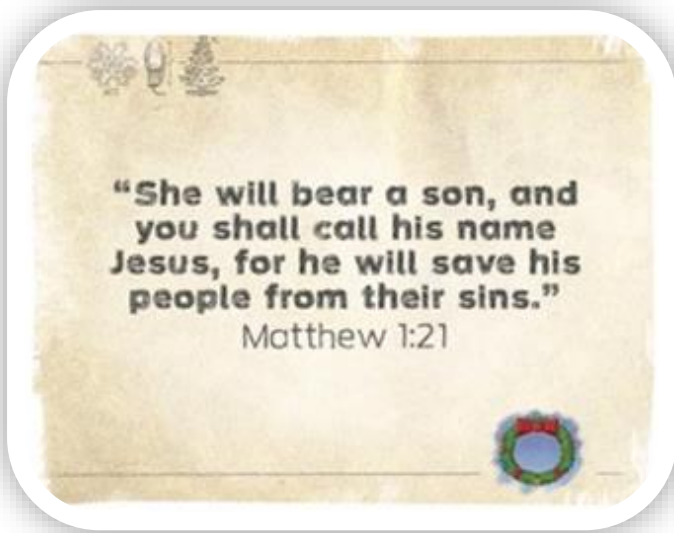
TUESDAYS, 6 - 7 AM

MONDAYS @ 7 PM

The study includes a workbook that is not required, but will be helpful.

Order one on Amazon [here](#) or from Lifeway [here](#).

Lifeway in Sherman 903-813-4674 may have a copy available in the store.



DECEMBER GRACE KIDS

Hezekiah, Judah's Faithful King

BIBLE PASSAGE: 2 Kings 18-19
MAIN POINT: God answered Hezekiah's prayer.
KEY PASSAGE: Hebrews 1:1-2
BIG PICTURE ?: How many gods are there? There is one true God who alone deserves worship.

Anticipating the Coming King

BIBLE PASSAGE: Isaiah 11:1-10
MAIN POINT: Isaiah prophesied about the coming Messiah.
KEY PASSAGE: Matthew 1:21
BIG PICTURE ?: Why was Jesus born? Jesus was born to rescue us from sin.

Jesus Was Born

BIBLE PASSAGE: Luke 2:1-20
MAIN POINT: Jesus was born to be God's promised Savior.
KEY PASSAGE: Matthew 1:21
BIG PICTURE ?: Why was Jesus born? Jesus was born to rescue us from sin.

Catechisms

26. Why did Adam and Eve eat the forbidden fruit? **Because they did not believe what God had said.**
27. Who tempted them to this sin? **The devil tempted Eve, and she gave the fruit to Adam.**
28. What happened to our first parents when they had sinned? **Instead of being holy and happy, they became sinful and miserable.**
29. What effect did the sin of Adam have on all mankind? **All mankind is born in a state of sin and misery.**
30. What do we inherit from Adam as a result of this original sin? **A sinful nature**

GRACE KIDS
SMALL GROUP LEADERS FOR
DECEMBER

PreK/Kindergarten: Caroline R. & Gabe T.
 1st/2nd Grade: Shelley B. & Ansley B.
 3rd/4th Grade: Karen P. & Hailey B.

STUDENT MINISTRY UPDATE

by Price Ferrell

We have concluded our Fall series on "Wisdom." Proverbs 13:20 says, "He who walks with the wise becomes wise, but a companion of fools will suffer harm." This Proverb shows us that we do not live in a vacuum. Friends will always influence each other, for good or for bad. Therefore, we need to be careful who we surround ourselves with. We typically surround ourselves with two types of people: Counterfeit Friends and Real Friends.

Counterfeit Friends

These are the people in your life who claim to accept you for who you are, but do not have your best interest at heart. They can be tough to spot because they look like the real thing. They never challenge you. They never try to lovingly correct you or call you out of your foolishness. Counterfeit Friends look like real friends on the surface but they are not genuine. A good way to help identify a Counterfeit Friend is by looking at the direction of the relationship. Relationships are always moving somewhere. Counterfeit Friends will lead you to a place you do not want to be. These people may mean you no harm, but they are in fact harmful. You can't be friends with everyone. This is a tough truth to swallow, but it is true nonetheless.

Real Friends

Real friends should make up your most intimate friendships and they should have the most influence over you. These are the people who should know you inside and out. They know your strengths and your weaknesses. They also have the relational equity to speak truth into your life without you feeling attacked. They love you enough to call you out of your foolishness and you trust them enough to listen. You can ask them tough questions and trust their answers. Real friends sacrificially love one another.

Here's what I mean by that. Jesus said in John 15:13, "Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends." That is true friendship! You may never be required to take a bullet for your friend, but you will be called to lay down your selfish desires for your friend. You will have to choose between your personal preferences or the betterment of your friend. You will have to choose between the relationship or the person.

Our friendships determine so much in our life. God even gave us a promise and a warning regarding our friendships. Therefore, we need to choose who we surround ourselves with wisely.



- GBF Student Ministry now has accounts on



Instagram **@gbf_students**

and



Twitter **@GBFStudents.**

Follow both for updates and news
in student ministry

Jason Carney added some pictures to the "GBF Students Fall 2016" photo album on Flickr:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/135982369@N08/albums/72157670327006763>



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



December 7: Nursing Home Visit

GBF Student Ministry will be visiting with the elderly at Texoma Healthcare Center in Sherman. **Students, be at GBF ready to leave by 6 pm! We will return by 7:45 pm**

The older generation should never be made to feel that they are thrown away and forgotten. Nursing homes are filled with former doctors, nurses, and engineers and on and on. We tend to look at the elderly as

just old people group in a nursing home, instead of seeing them as people who have lived a life before us. They are a people with a wealth of life wisdom to share. They have made their mark on this life. They have performed well, and have confidence that their life was well spent. Leviticus 19:31 says, "You shall stand up before the gray head and honor the face of an old man." Older people are to be respected. They have a wealth of practical wisdom to share and experiences to relate. They have earned our love and respect.



December 14: White Elephant Christmas Party! 6:30 - 7:45 pm.

This will be our last night of Wednesday activities for the semester so we are going to spend it by simply enjoying the company of our brothers and sisters in Christ. There will be food and drinks so come hungry!

Students, please bring 1 gift (\$10 limit) for the white elephant gift exchange.



Three Truths That Change Your Life

Price recently taught the students about trusting God over feelings of fear, anxiety and insecurity.

- 1) **God is Sovereign.** “For I know that the LORD is great, and that our Lord is above all gods. Whatever the LORD pleases, he does, in heaven and on earth, in the seas and all deeps” (Psalm 135:5-6). Every detail of your life, the decisions of kings and presidents, the lifespan of birds, disease, today’s weather, and each passing second of human history takes place under God’s sovereignty. God is in control of everything. Nothing is outside of God’s control.
- 2) **God is Wise.** “Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgements and how inscrutable his ways!” (Romans 11:33). God looks down upon the galaxies and sees everything. He looks down upon your problems, plans, and prayers with the perfect perspective. God is never confused, worried, or uncertain about the course of this world or the course of your future. God never makes mistakes. Yesterday, God governed the universe with infallible wisdom. Today, God is doing the same. Tomorrow and forever God will govern everything from the galaxies to the ghettos with absolute, perfect wisdom.
- 3) **God is Good.** “The LORD is gracious and merciful; slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. The LORD is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made” (Psalm 145:8-9). Not a spec of evil, deceit, or indifference dwells in God. God is love. God abounds in steadfast goodness, love, mercy, and grace. The Bible tells a single story of a good God taking relentless action to love, rescue, and bless people who don’t deserve it. God has always been good and always will be good. God’s goodness is not a temporary mood. God’s goodness is not a mood that changes based upon your performance or circumstances. His loving goodness is an eternally-solid attribute.

STUDENT MINISTRY LEADERS OF THE MONTH



Jarod is an 11th - 12th grade guys small group leader.

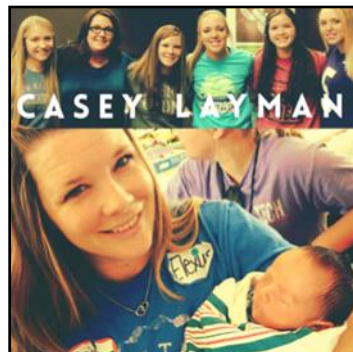
Fave Hobbie: Horseshoes, 42, washers, cornhole

Fave Cereal: Fruity Pebbles

Something not everyone knows about you:
I can out eat most people.

Fave Hangout in high school:
Texoma Parkway

Fave Bible Verse:
Proverbs 3:5-6



Casey is an 11th - 12th grade girls small group leader.

Fave Hobbie: Hanging out with my family

Fave Cereal: Honeycombs

Something not everyone knows about you:
I won 1st place in the Tiny Miss Beauty Pageant when I was 4.

Fave Hangout in high school:
Anywhere my boyfriend Roy was hanging out.

Fave Bible Verse:
Ephesians 2:10



Janna is a 9th - 10th Grade girls small group leader.

Fave Hobbie: Spending time with my family.

Fave Cereal:
Honey nut Cheerios

Something not everyone knows about you:
I could win a gold medal if sleeping were an Olympic sport. #nightshiftprobs

Fave Hangout in high school:
Cruising Texoma Parkway

Fave Bible Verse:
Romans 15:13



Jason is a 9th -10th Grade guys small group leader.

Fave Hobbie: Mountain biking

Fave Cereal: Frosted Mini Wheats

Something not everyone knows about you: I often get requests to demonstrate my kangaroo impersonation at work.

Fave Hangout in high school:
The Methodist Church. They hosted a dance with a DJ after every home football game.

Fave Bible Verse:
Ephesians 2:8-9

Merry Christmas

For God so loved the world
that he gave his one and only
Son, that whoever believes in
him shall not perish but have
eternal life.

John 3:16



women's

progressivedinner

5:30
pm

For information, call Tinna
903-815-4055

12.03.2016

Contact Us

www.thegbf.com

Twitter: @gbfgunter

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Senior Pastor: Roy Layman

Elders: Brent Wilkens
Jeff Crelia, Theron Whitley
Roy Layman

On Sunday mornings, remember to check announcements on the board in the coffee area, located north of the sanctuary, for activities planned for the month and upcoming week.

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

DECEMBER 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 Women's Progressive Dinner 5:30 pm
4 FAMILY WORSHIP 10:45 am Angel Tree Begins	5 Men's Bible Study, 7 pm	6 Men's Bible Study, 6 am	7 GRACE KIDS 6:30 pm STUDENT MINISTRY TO THE NURSING HOME 6:30 PM	8	9	10
11 FAMILY WORSHIP 10:45 am	12 Men's Bible Study, 7 pm	13 Men's Bible Study, 6 am	14 GRACE KIDS 6:30 pm STUDENT MINISTRY WHITE ELEPHANT PARTY, 6:30 PM	15	16 GISD Early Release	17
18 FAMILY WORSHIP 10:45 am Angel Tree Gifts Due	19	20	21	22	23	24  Christmas Eve Service 5:30 pm
	GISD CHRISTMAS BREAK					
25 	26	27	28	29	30	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE
	GISD CHRISTMAS BREAK					