



# WHAT DOES A BIBLICAL COMMUNITY HAVE TO DO WITH ME? »



*plus:*

**GROWING IN PRAYERS »**

**GLOBAL PRAYER WEEK »**

**GUATEMALA TEAM UPDATE »**

*and more!*



# HAPPENINGS

Learn more and sign up for events at [graceb3.org/events](https://graceb3.org/events)

## MOMCO AFTER DARK

provides a Christ-centered, caring environment where friendships and personal relationships can develop for moms of elementary school years and beyond. 1st & 3rd Tuesday evenings starting Sept 3 | 6-8:30pm

## MOMCO

MomCo encourages and equips moms with children in kindergarten or younger. 2nd and 4th Tuesdays starting Sept 10 | 9-11:15am

## PARENTING ROUND TABLE

Come get encouraged and equipped to make disciples of the next generation in your own household! We are in this together! Sept 9 | 8:30 or 10:15am

## WOMEN'S BONFIRE WORSHIP

Gather around the fire in Grace's backyard for an evening of worship and fellowship! Sept 27 | 7pm

*more on next page*

## WEEKEND SOUL CARE

Over three Saturdays, this class will offer biblical answers to some of the sticky things that life throws our way and instruction in how we can effectively counsel those around us. Sept 21 | 8am-4:30pm

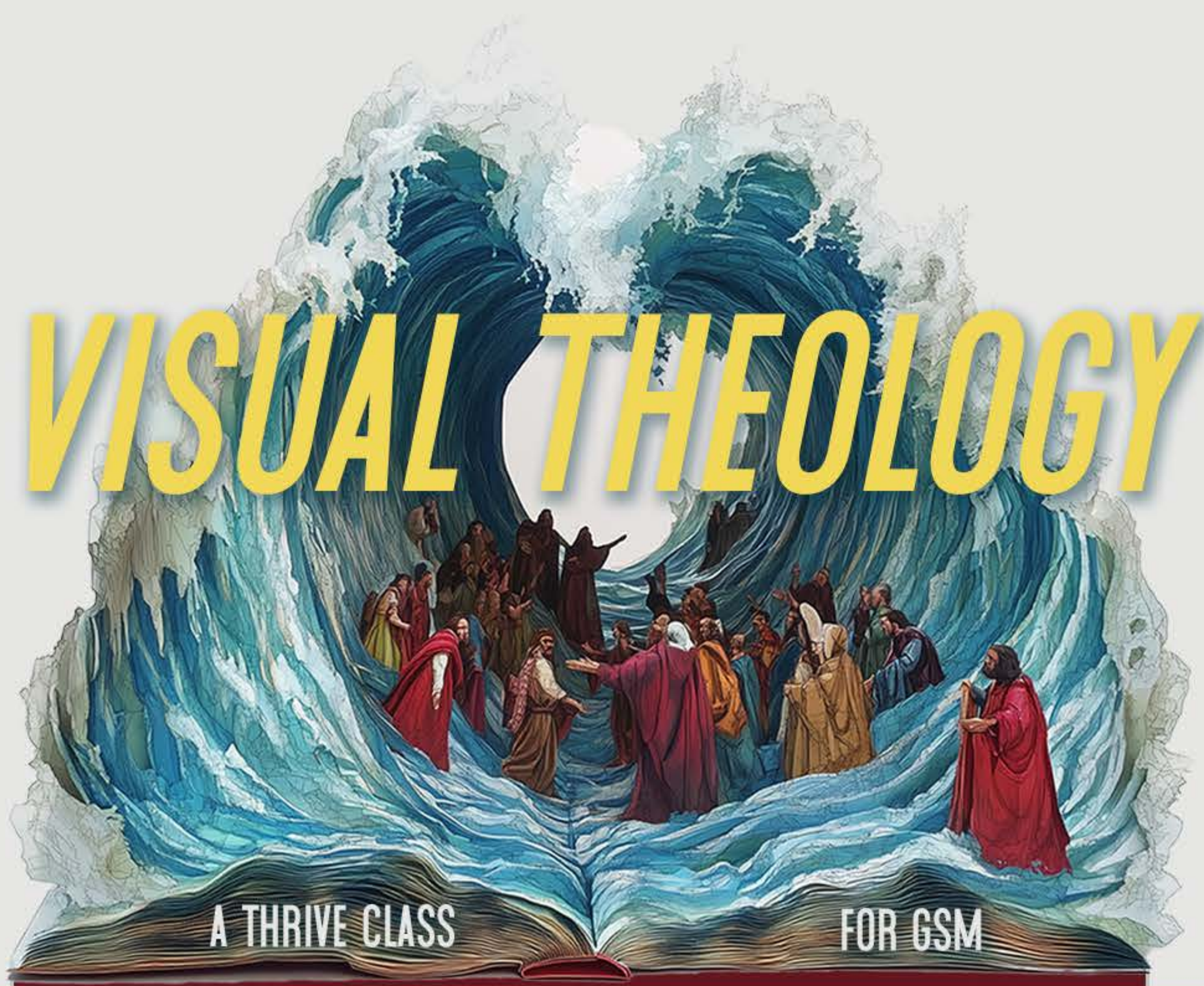
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## MISSIONS EMPHASIS WEEK

focuses on missions locally, nationally, and globally. Our focal point this year is Every Tribe, Language, People, and Nation! Events are held throughout the week Sept 22-29.

## FALL THRIVE BEGINS

Thrive classes begin on Sept 22. Find classes to equip you in your walk with God now.



**SIGN UP AT [GRACEB3.ORG/EVENTS](https://graceb3.org/events)**

Each week we will discuss how the Bible was put together, how we know we can trust it, and explore its contents from cover to cover, Genesis to Revelation. We'll have a mix of teaching and table discussion. All 7th through 12th graders are encouraged to join us!

*This is a two-part class that will resume in the Spring.*

**Sundays, Sept. 22 - Nov. 24  
10:15 - 11:20am**

# Growing in PRAYER

Children's Ministry Fall Update

*By Children's Ministry Lead Coordinator Natasha Miller*

**THE CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEAM IS GETTING PREPPED FOR THE BEGINNING OF ANOTHER YEAR OF CLASSES AT GRACE** – volunteer positions are being filled, and we've been praying for the gospel to sink deep into the kids' hearts. Another piece of our preparation has included choosing a spiritual discipline focus for the year, and this year, we have chosen prayer as our focus.

While praying with the kids in classes on Sunday is not new, this year, we will be **purposefully teaching the kids different types of prayer**, such as adoration, confession, thanksgiving, and supplication, as well as praying for those around them – teachers, classmates, neighbors, family members, and missionaries.

As followers of Jesus, we know that prayer is an important part of life. In Scripture, we see Jesus pray many times throughout his time on earth. We see him teach his disciples to pray, go away to be by himself to pray, and ask God for things in prayer, always with the attitude of *“not my will, but yours be done.”* We can, and should, learn from Jesus’ actions and cry out to God daily.

Our goal as the Children’s Ministry team is to walk with parents as they teach their kids to follow Jesus. As we support parents in discipling their kids, our prayer is that this year the kids will grow in their prayer lives. We hope this carries over from Sunday morning into each week at home and school. **Ask your kids what and who they pray for and pray with them throughout the week.** Whether prayer is an area of strength or struggle for you, we encourage you to use this year as one to grow closer to Jesus through prayer. Look to him for answers and keep your eyes open to see what he will do. 🌿



# BIBLICAL COMMUNITY

By Congregational Development Pastor  
Jason Blackley





**AS CHRISTIANS, JESUS FOLLOWERS, WE WORSHIP THE ONE TRUE GOD! NOT ONLY SO, THE GOD OF THE BIBLE, AS REVEALED AND WRITTEN ABOUT IN THE PAGES OF SCRIPTURE, IS THE ONLY GOD THAT CAN BE LOVING AND WORTHY OF WORSHIP.**

Whether we are talking about history, modernity, the east or the west, there are many conceptions of God. If you were to say the word “God” to a person on the street and ask them what they think of, you would hear a myriad of answers. The one thing that you would hear over and over again would be descriptors that make God sound like one being. Even if asking Christians you would probably hear about God as if he were solely one. However, intellectually we know that God is 3-in-1.

In *Delighting in the Trinity*, Micahel Reeves notes that neither analogies about three-leaf clovers, ice water and vapor, nor the three varieties of how you eat an egg measure up to the trinitarian God of Scripture. Instead, the Bible, “*reflects a personal God, a Son who is distinct from his Father, and yet who is the very being of the Father, and who is eternally one with him in the Spirit.*”

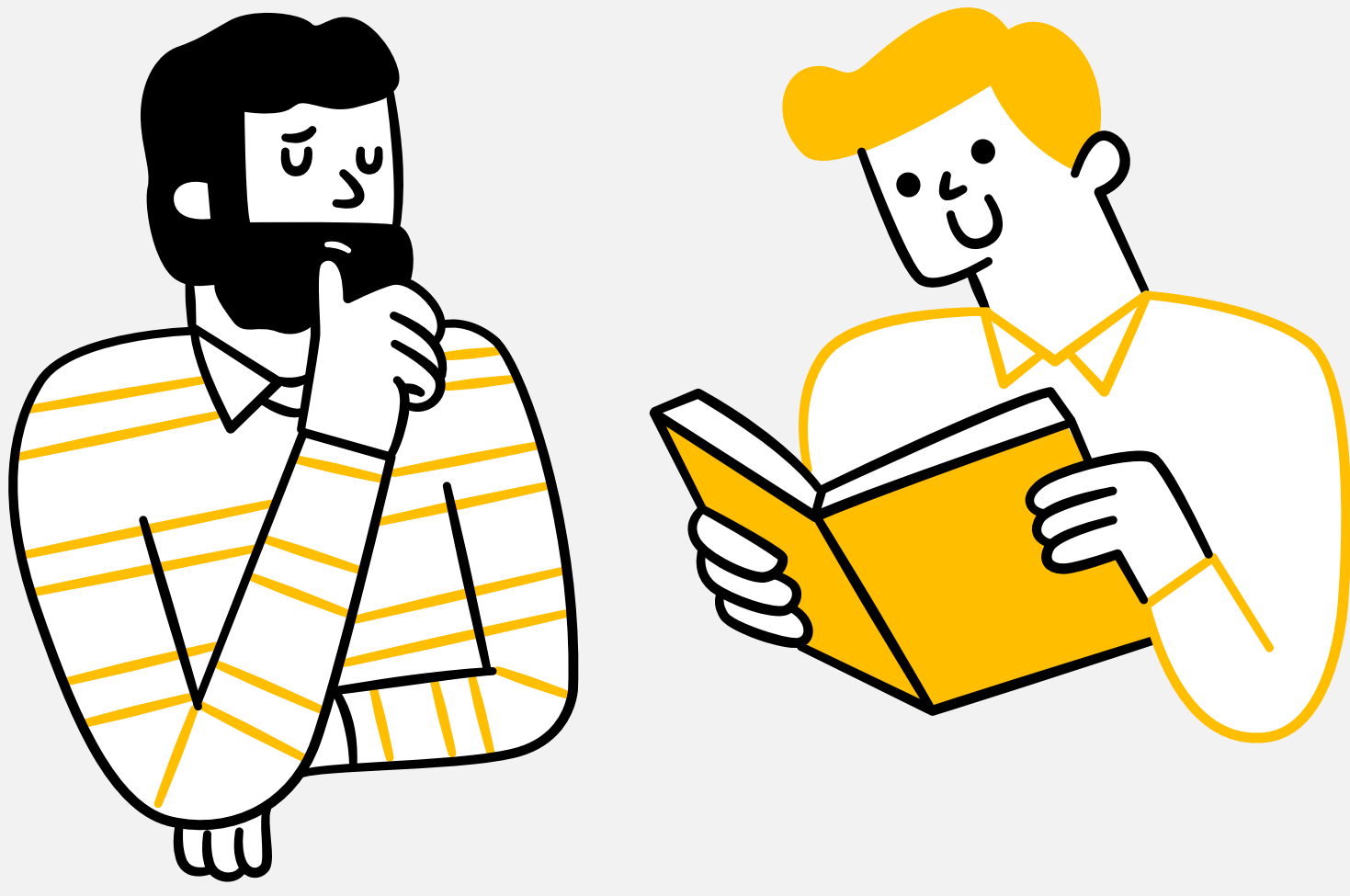


## WHAT DOES A TRIUNE GOD HAVE TO DO WITH A BIBLICAL COMMUNITY?

People meet, gather, and fellowship for many reasons. Sports teams, political parties, board games, bloodlines, hobbies, work, school, art... you get the point, all gather. Gathering in a building or in living rooms does not make us unique. The God we worship, the one true, trinitarian God is what makes Christians unique. The fact that Father, Son and Spirit are one is the unique reason, power and motivation for our gathering.

For all eternity, the Father, Son, and Spirit have been in a healthy, life-giving, self-sacrificing, loving relationship with one another (Genesis 1:2, 26). So, when the Father, Son, and Spirit tell us, through the words of John, to love because he first loved us (1 John 4:19), it defines for us what love looks like. Or as Reeves writes in summarizing John, *"This God IS love in such a profound and potent way that you simply cannot know him without yourself becoming loving."* That love that is prescribed to us is given to us because it has been fully realized in God already. This is exponentially more meaningful, moving, and motivating than other religious understandings of God. The 'gods' created by man command things they are unwilling to do for others. Not so, with the one, true God!





*“But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us,”* (Ephesians 2:4) But our God knows what love is because he is love. He has been loving for eternity. He does not need love, he has always had love. He invites us into his love because he IS love.

### **HOW SHOULD THIS FORM US INTO A BIBLICAL COMMUNITY?**

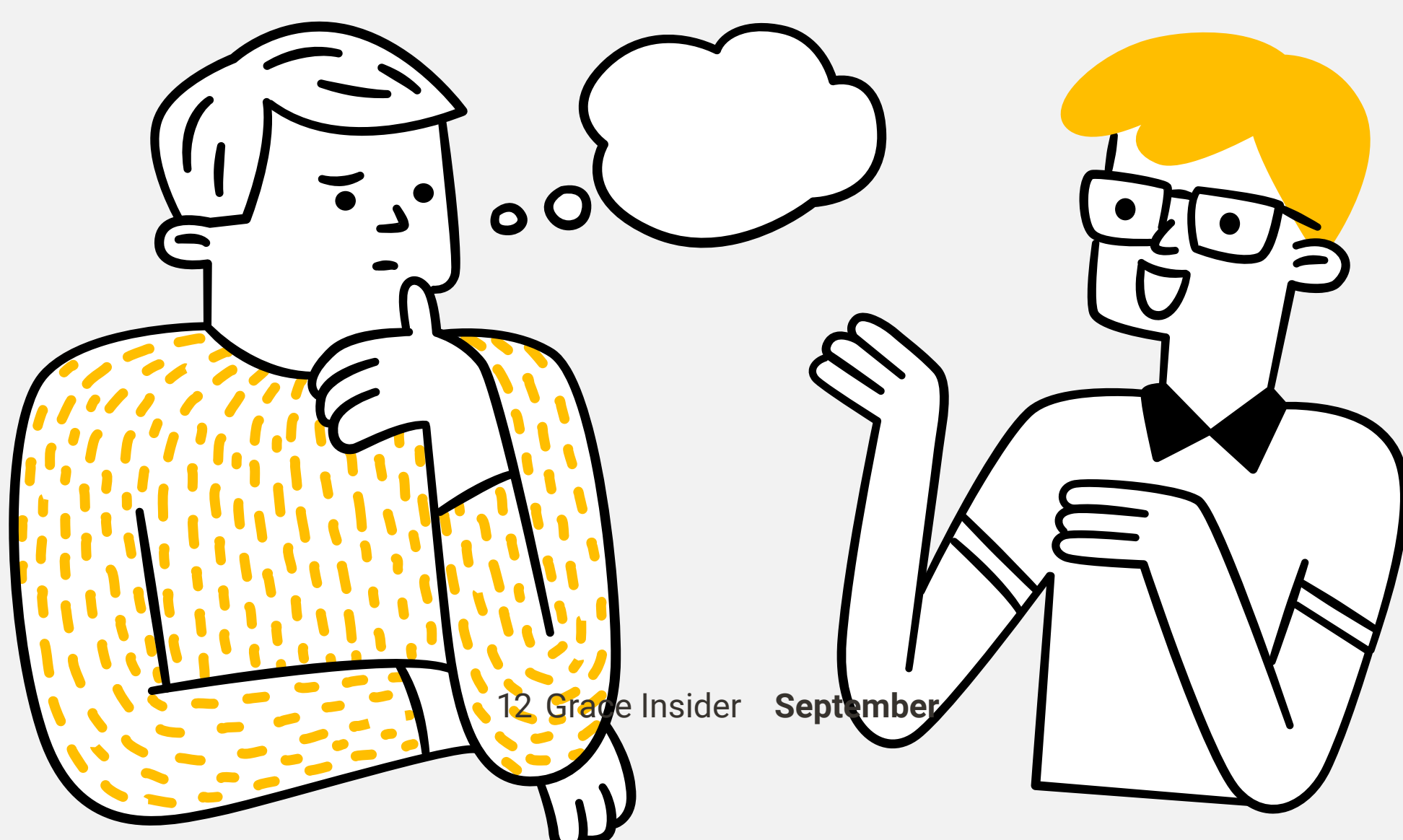
If we just go to the same building each week as a hundred or a thousand other people, we cannot fully model the love with which we have been loved. There are many wonderful reasons to worship and serve together. However, we are limited in our opportunities to really give and receive the love of God towards and from one another. So first, we must gather in smaller groups, teams, and situations so that we can see the love of God more tangibly. 1 John 4:12 states, *“No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.”* Part of seeing God and his love more fully is through the love we give and receive from biblical community.



In a biblical community, we have an opportunity to know others and be known by them. While this can be a frightening endeavor, it also is where the goodness is. It is nice and good to meet new people or hug old friends at church. It could never compare to playing with one another's kids, sharing a cup of coffee or a meal together, and laughing and crying in one another's living rooms.

In a biblical community, we get to use our gifts most fully and also receive the gifts of others. 1 Peter 4:10 tells us that there are varied gifts that we should use to show “*God’s varied grace.*” Did you catch that? There are various kinds of God’s grace that we can only fully receive when the biblical community uses its gifts!

A trinitarian understanding of God and his self-sacrificing love should reshape how and why we spend time together as followers of Jesus. Our lives, church experience, and our pursuit of Christ is not just about us. If the Father is indeed a loving Father who has adopted us into his family through the righteous merit of his Son and given us the Holy Spirit as a deposit, a guarantee of our salvation, then



our lives no longer belong to us. We are called and have the ability to **joyfully give of ourselves, in every way, to serve others and model the trinitarian love of God.**

Bible studies, fellowship groups, serving together, and sharing meals are wonderful activities for the body of Christ to participate in. However, they are all a means to an end or a fruit of us receiving God's love and freely giving that love to one another. So, as you reflect on God's purpose and calling for community, consider what this means for you. **Are you already involved in a biblical community that has the characteristics described above?** If not, what step can you take to find community at Grace this fall? Not sure where to start? Try looking at [graceb3.org/events](https://graceb3.org/events), [graceb3.org/group](https://graceb3.org/group), or ask a pastor, staff, or volunteer this Sunday about what they'd recommend, and remember: **going in grace doesn't mean going it alone.** 🌿

# FIND YOUR BIBLICAL COMMUNITY THIS FALL

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## Fall Thrive Classes

**SUNDAY  
MORNINGS  
DURING  
1ST & 2ND  
SERVICES  
9/22-11/24**

Thrive classes are ten-week adult education courses designed to equip, train, and encourage you to grow spiritually in your walk with Jesus. This fall, choose from a roster of eight classes, happening during 1st and 2nd service.

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## Women's Morning Bible Study

**FRIDAYS  
9:30-11AM  
9/6-11/8**

A ten-week study of Revelation verse-by-verse to discover how the last book of the Bible is accessible, helpful, and speaks a steadying word of assurance and endurance to the church in every age.

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## MomCo After Dark

**1ST & 3RD  
TUESDAYS  
6:30-8PM  
9/3-4/15**

MomCo: After Dark provides a Christ-centered, caring environment where friendships and personal relationships can develop. Focused on mothers of children in elementary school and older.

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## Men's Bible Study Fellowship

**MONDAYS  
6:30-8PM  
STARTS 9/9**

BSF Men's groups offer straight talk and biblical truth built on the foundation of Jesus Christ. This year, we're studying Revelation; register online or show-up, and we'll handle it on-site.



**DELIVER THE GOOD NEWS OF  
JESUS CHRIST TO CHILDREN  
IN NEED AROUND THE WORLD  
THROUGH GIFT-FILLED SHOEBOXES.**

**PICK UP  
YOUR BOXES ON OCT 6, 13, 20 & NOV 3, 10, 17  
DROP OFF  
BETWEEN NOV 18-25**

***LEARN MORE AT [GRACEB3.ORG/EVENTS](http://GRACEB3.ORG/EVENTS)***

# Women's BIBLE STUDIES

By Women's Ministry Coordinator Kat George

WE ARE SO EXCITED THAT WE HAVE TWO BIBLE STUDY OPTIONS THIS FALL FOR THE WOMEN OF GRACE.

- 1. JEN WILKIN'S NEWEST BIBLE STUDY, REVELATION: ETERNAL KING, EVERLASTING KINGDOM •**  
*Offered on Friday mornings at 9:30am*

Two thousand years ago, John's Revelation was circulated and read aloud among seven churches in Asia Minor. Those who heard the letter understood it and drew encouragement from its message. The same can be true for you today.

Over ten sessions of verse-by-verse Bible study, Jen Wilkin helps you discover how the last book of the Bible—the culmination of God's great story—speaks both a steadying word of assurance and a strong call to endure to the church in every age.

## 2. JEN WILKIN'S GOD OF COVENANT • *Offered on Monday evenings at 7pm*

Beginning with Genesis 12, walk alongside the fathers of our faith – Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph – to discern Jesus in the stories of his people.

Over ten sessions, discover how God orchestrates everything for his glory and the good of his people, and see how the God of creation and covenant is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

We look forward to studying the word of God with the women of Grace. Register today at [graceb3.org/events](https://graceb3.org/events) 🌿



# OVER THE YEARS

*Our God has been Faithful*

10/12

10AM-12PM

## A SEASONED SISTERS EVENT

**Sign up by Oct 10.** Three ways to register:

- Register at [graceb3.org/events](http://graceb3.org/events)
- Stop by the Info Desk in the foyer on Sundays
- Contact (319) 626-2040 or [office@graceb3.org](mailto:office@graceb3.org)

### **Are you a Seasoned Sister?**

#### **Do any of these describe you?**

50+ years old • adult children • grandmother • empty-nester • retired

If so, join other Seasoned Sisters for fellowship, food, and encouragement for your faith!

### **This fall, we will have a vintage style show**

called, *Over the Years: Our God has been Faithful*, featuring different clothes over the years.

Plan to bring a dish for a potluck.

Drinks, plates and silverware will be provided.



<h1>PRAYER WEEK</h1>						

By Student Ministry Director Brian Hagedorn

SUMMER IS GONE, AND A NEW SCHOOL YEAR HAS ONLY JUST BEGUN; WITH IT COMES NEW RHYTHMS, STRUCTURES, FRIENDSHIPS, PRESSURES AND RESPONSIBILITIES THAT will demand time and attention from students, and really, parents and families as well. Amidst all of this, it is all too easy to lose sight of what is most important.

In Colossians 4:2, Paul encourages the church in Colossae to pray, saying *“Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.”* Usually, there is a **global week of student prayer** during the last full week of September. During this time, students are encouraged to pray for the nations, world leaders, government officials, their schools and staff members, their peers, etc.

I would like to encourage you to do something similar as an individual, as a family, or perhaps with your community group.

- **For one week this month, block out a time daily to pray for the students and families in our community.**
- **Pray for our pastors, elders, church staff, and the families and individuals who make up our church.**
- **Pray for our local schools, teachers, and staff members.**
- **Pray for your neighbors and those who have not yet received the hope and salvation of Christ.**

In other words, let us all, as a family of believers, *“continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving”* and watch expectantly to see how the Lord will work in us, our church, and our communities as we pray. 🙌

*“continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving”*

# BUILDING COMMUNITY IN CHURCHES BY CARING WELL FOR ONE ANOTHER

WITH KEYNOTE  
SPEAKER  
**DR. KEVIN  
CARSON**

a conference for pastors, elders,  
church staff, and volunteer leaders

10/19 • 8am–4:30pm  
register at [graceb3.org/events](https://graceb3.org/events)

Leaders, join us for this conference and be encouraged and equipped with ideas, tools, and resources to build intentional care and shepherding into your ministry areas, strengthening the overall community of your local church.

**Date & Time** October 19 • 8am–4:30pm

**Cost** Early Bird Rate \$40

*(Register by August 31)*

Regular Rate \$50

**Questions?** Contact Pastor Dave Kirk,  
[davek@graceb3.org](mailto:davek@graceb3.org),  
(319) 626-2040 ext 113

# Guatemala Team

By Executive Pastor Josh Haveman

Update

For those who have been supporting and praying for the 2024 Summer Guatemala team, it is important to know two things:

First, the team from Grace Community Church that left Iowa as planned on Saturday, July 20, never reached Guatemala, but everyone on the team is now home and safe.

Second, all of the money raised for this trip to help build homes, provide wheelchairs, and minister to families in Guatemala will still be used for those efforts in the next week. Those are the facts.

## Now for the story.

On Friday morning, July 19, 2024, a software update was introduced to a number of digital systems that are used for managing airline travel, employee management, and many other activities and industries. **That software update caused multiple systems to crash, resulting in significant travel delays and problems across the globe.** By Friday evening, it appeared that most systems were working again. The travel agency that Grace uses to book flights for missions trips believed it was likely that our flight would still leave on time.

## July 20 4:30am

When our team arrived at the airport at 4:30 am for our 6:00 am departure, our flight was listed as “on time.”

### Then things started to fall apart.

First, our group of twenty travelers almost **didn't get our bags checked in on time**. This wasn't necessarily a computer system issue, but it was a problem. We thought for sure we would miss our first flight and stress levels started to rise. When our flight was delayed for the first time due to conflicts in Atlanta – our first scheduled stop – we were actually relieved because it meant we would have time to get on the plane. But then the second delay happened. And then the third. **We sat in the plane on the runway from 6am to 8am waiting to take off**. Then, suddenly, we were cleared for take off and got underway. The flight to Atlanta was smooth and quick. We arrived about two hours later, 11AM local time. Then for the next sixteen hours, we did everything we could to leave.

## July 20 11:00am

**We knew that we had missed our connecting flight to Guatemala before we even reached the gate**. We got off the plane and immediately got in line at the Delta service desk to determine options for rescheduling our flight. This was the first pass through the line.

**July 20 1:30pm**

**We waited about two and a half hours to talk to the service representatives.** We were told that **it would be three to four days before our group of 20 could get another flight to Guatemala.** It was the first time we began to appreciate the scope of the situation.

We know now that Atlanta is one of, if not the busiest, airports in the world. And we know that **80% of air traffic through Atlanta is managed by Delta** – our carrier for this trip. They weren't just responsible for finding us new flights. They were trying to manage new travel itineraries for a sizable portion of all travelers in the world that weekend! Because of that, this is a good place to mention that the Delta employees we spoke to were always patient and courteous. **They were given an impossible task and almost no help, and yet they were kind to the many thousands of people they spoke to.** Praise the Lord for that provision, and may he bless their faithfulness. If the Delta service team in Atlanta hadn't been patient and kind, who knows how much worse everything could have been.

Once we learned that we would need to wait three or four days just to fly out of Atlanta, we began researching other options. We called our travel agents and we called Delta's help lines multiple times. We used online chat tools. We waited in the service line two more times, each for about two hours. We talked to vehicle rental companies and other airlines.

**July 20 2:00pm**

**Between about 2PM to 7PM, we did everything we could to arrange an alternative method of transportation to Guatemala.**

Our best possible solution involved renting vans in Atlanta, driving the team to Miami, and sending people from Miami to Guatemala on three separate flights. This plan would have required us to leave two team members behind to return the vans to Atlanta. And there was no guarantee the flights from Miami to Guatemala wouldn't be delayed. Despite those challenges, we were ready to take that option until we learned that there was no way to retrieve our luggage. Not only did this mean losing access to clothes and personal items, but it also meant we would not have all of the supplies we had gathered for the families we were planning to serve in Guatemala. At this point, we recognized that **there was no good option for getting our team to Guatemala, and got in the service line one more time to try to get a flight back home.**

**July 21 12:50am**

The last wait in the service line was the longest. At this point, travelers had been piling up at the Atlanta airport for almost two days. **We waited in line from about 7PM to 10PM just to get our flight changed to a Cedar Rapids destination.** The flight was scheduled for a 12:50 am departure. It looked like we were headed home. Until that flight

was delayed. Delayed again. And then finally **the flight to Cedar Rapids was canceled at about 2AM.** We were stuck again in Atlanta.

## July 21 2:00am

One member of our group immediately sought out another service line. He was able to find a helpful employee that could reschedule our flight to Tuesday the 23rd at 8PM – this would have meant waiting in Atlanta two more days. We elected to try to drive home instead. Because we had explored ground transportation options earlier, we knew that rental car options were few and far between. There were no large vans available to take our group in one or two vehicles. Bus services like Greyhound were sold out.

## July 21 3:00am

Finally, **at 3AM, we found a service that had four, five-person vehicles, available in Atlanta.** We reserved the vehicles online, and then moved everyone across the airport to the rental station to pick up the vehicles.

## July 21 7:00am

**By 7AM we had all twenty people packed into four cars and were driving out of Atlanta.** We had breakfast at a Buccee's in Georgia, drove through Nashville, and stopped for lunch in Kentucky. Most of us found supper somewhere near St. Louis.


**July 21 10:00pm**

And **at 10PM, all of the rental cars were returned and our trip was complete. God got us safely home.**

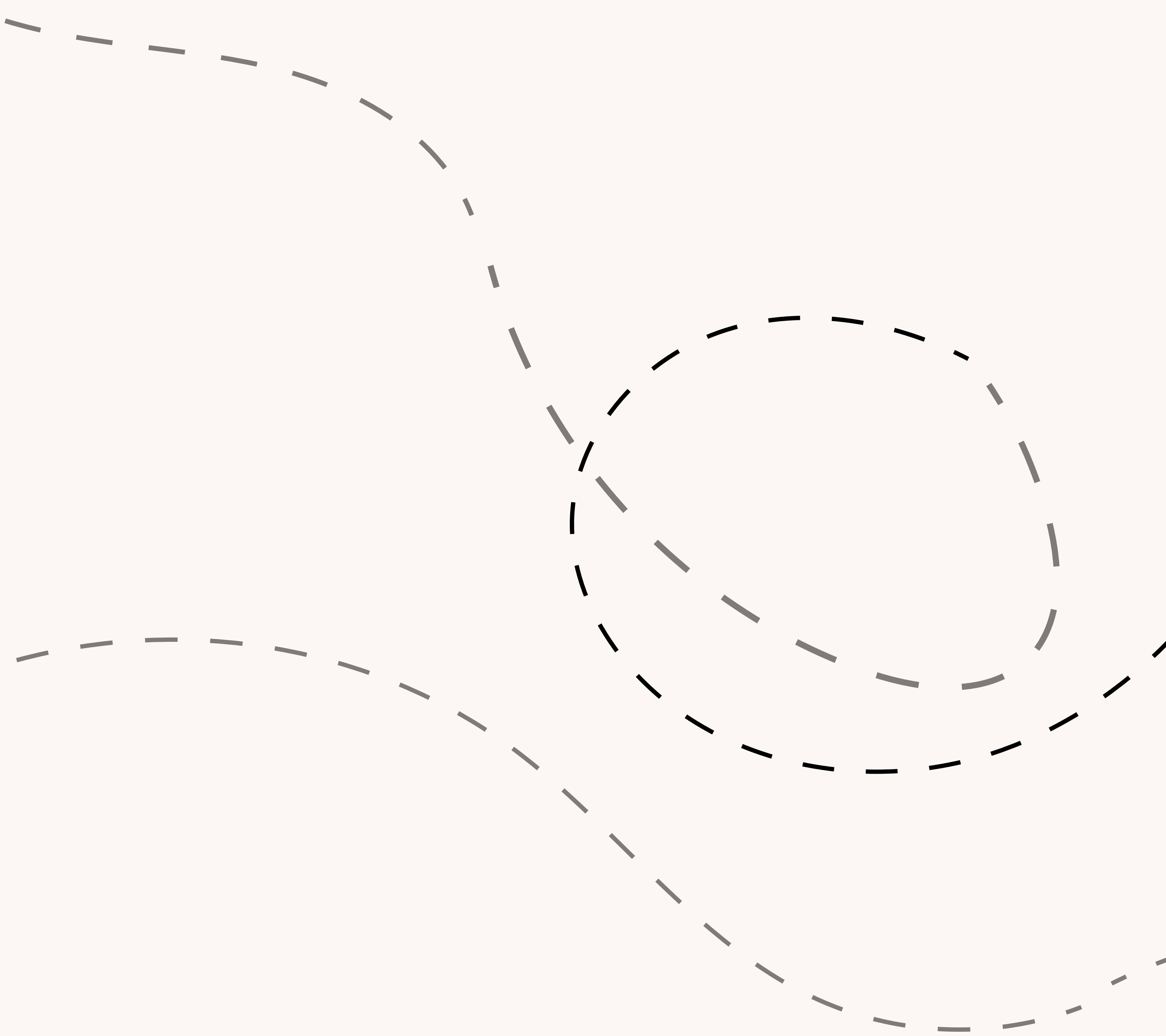
As I said at the beginning, the money raised for this trip is still being used to bless families and individuals in Guatemala. Our partners, **Bethel Ministries, will be recruiting local help to fill in the gaps left by our team not being in the country.** But the houses will still be built. Wheelchairs will be distributed. Food and Bibles and clothes will still be given to those in need. The gospel will be shared with men, women, and children who need Jesus.

Our team is already learning many lessons, too, about how God is redeeming this missed opportunity. We have seen his Spirit bless us in so many ways. Ask anyone who went on the trip about the way he provided for us. You'll hear stories about **God-given patience, stamina, available rental cars, much-needed blankets, kind airline employees, and more.** God is good, and he is doing good through this.

It is always our goal to have people from Grace go to Guatemala to minister to the people there. If we are going to send money and resources, we want to send people, too, for a personal connection and partnership in the gospel. But this time, even though the people didn't get to go, we are confident that the ministry will go forward. You can expect to see pictures of the homes and families that received them soon. Our friends at



Bethel are headed to the worksites right now to bring Jesus to those who need him. Thank you for your prayers. Thank you for your monetary support. We will be reporting back to you to tell you how God continues to work for our good and his glory. 🌿



# CHILD DEDICATION CLASS

OCT 27 • 10:15-11:30AM  
REGISTER AT  
[GRACEB3.ORG/EVENTS](https://graceb3.org/events)

This class is designed to equip parents who wish to dedicate themselves before the church to raise their children in the Lord. It will address the biblical foundation for dedication, the parent's role, the church's responsibility, and the rationale for why we do not practice infant baptism. This class must be taken before parents can participate in the dedication ceremony.

*North Liberty ceremony will be Sunday, Nov 3  
during morning services.*

**THRIVE  
CLASSES  
PREVIEW**

*MEET THE TEACHERS*

*By Spiritual Formation Pastor Dave Kirk*

**The fall semester of Thrive is kicking off very soon, and we couldn't be more excited.**

The classes offered this semester will help equip you to grow in your walk with Christ and give you valuable tools to use along your discipleship journey. No matter where you are in your walk with Christ, there is something here for everyone this semester.

In order to help you decide which Thrive class to take, we thought we would provide the teacher bios of each class.

## **Scott Heemstra & Austin Ward**

*Practical Disciple Making • 8:30am*

Scott Heemstra, along with his wife Paige, are on staff with Navigators. Along with ministering to college students at the University of Iowa, they also lead one of our community groups. Scott and Paige are part of our lay missions team, helping our outreach ministry at Grace grow. Scott is a gifted teacher and communicator who is passionate about discipleship and equipping Christians to effectively disciple others.

Austin Ward, along with his wife Lauren, have been a part of great discipleship—building churches and have spent several years as long-term missionaries in Malaysia. They are also part of the lay missions team at Grace. Like Scott, Austin has a huge heart for the gospel, discipling others, and seeing disciples equipped to make disciples. Austin brings many great perspectives to discipleship.

## **Rick Wyss**

*Marriage: 6 Gospel Commitments Every Couple Needs to Make • 8:30am*

Rick and his wife Carol have been members at Grace for a long time. Rick has been an elder at Grace since 2018 and currently is on the elder board. He is a part of the biblical counseling leadership team where he is able to help give direction for biblical counseling and is able to counsel and provide teaching and training for counselors. Rick and Carol have also led a community group for over ten years and they have a heart to see gospel-centered marriages thriving.

# Jacob Varvel & Peter Chidister

*The Redemption Story of God:  
From Genesis to Revelation • 8:30am*

Jacob Varvel and his family have been at Grace for over ten years, and in that time, Jacob has been a community group leader with his wife, Linda. Jacob currently serves as our Communications and Connections Director here at Grace. Jacob has a deep love for Jesus, the word, and people. Jacob brings a sincere heart and a curious mind to his teaching that helps bring out the truth of God's word.

Peter Chidister and his family have been members at Grace for over ten years. Peter, like Jacob, is a newer teacher on our Thrive teaching team. Peter brings a passionate heart for Jesus and discipleship to his teaching. Peter is very thoughtful, smart, and deliberate as a teacher. Peter also serves as a volunteer in our student ministry.

# Jean Keeley & Carrie Wolford

*Bible Study Workshop • 8:30am*

Jean Keeley has a love for knowing and studying God's word and teaching others to do the same. She has a Certificate in Biblical Studies from Emmaus Bible College in Dubuque and is continually receiving training in study and interpretation. She has been teaching the Bible Study Workshop in various formats since 2009. Jean has been a member of Grace since 1993 and on staff since 2007. She currently serves as the Administrative Projects Director.

Carrie Wolford and her husband Matt have been members at Grace since 2019 but have been coming to Grace for over ten years. They have two kids; a boy and a girl. Carrie has served in many roles since she has been attending Grace. She served in the Student Ministries area as a girls leader for many years. Carrie is currently serving in women's ministry, leading Bible studies, and helping to facilitate women's ministry initiatives. Carrie also shares a passion for the God's word and seeing people grow in their knowledge and study of his word. We are thankful for Carrie and her heart for ministry and discipleship.

# Tom & Glenda Widmer

*Grandparenting Matters • 10:15am*

Tom and Glenda Widmer have been members at Grace since 1987. Tom has served as an elder at Grace for over 20 years. Best known for their love for missions and discipleship, Tom and Glenda have served in Children's Ministry teaching and leading Missions Club forever. They have led numerous short-term mission trips from Grace. Glenda has served in women's ministries in various capacities over the years, including being the director of MOPS at Grace. Tom and Glenda lead a community group, have taught various classes over the years, and recently have focused their time on helping grandparents to intentionally disciple their grandchildren. Tom and Glenda are full of wisdom and fun.

## Dave Kirk

*Growing in Christ • 10:15am*

*Premarital Counseling Class • 11:30am*

I have been a pastor at Grace for 15 years and serve as the Pastor of Spiritual Formation. I am also the Co-Founder and Director of the Eastern Iowa Biblical Counseling Coalition, a ministry to numerous churches in Iowa that assists pastors and leaders in building shepherding into their church's discipleship models. I have two master's degrees from Liberty University in Christian Leadership and Church Growth/Church Planting. My heart is to see people grow to know and understand their union with and identity in Christ, to ignite them to live joyfully with and for Jesus daily.

## Brian Hagedorn

*Visual Theology for Middle & High School Students • 10:15am*

Brian Hagedorn and his wife Lizz have led the Grace Student Ministry (GSM) for the past ten years. The Hagedorns have surrounded themselves with a great team of lay leaders to build into the students of our church. The GSM team have a huge heart for Jesus and for middle school and high school students to come to know Christ and to grow in him to be disciples and disciplemakers. They're accessible to our students, and they seek to help students apply God's truth to their lives.

# EVERY TRIBE, LANGUAGE, PEOPLE, AND NATION

*Missions Emphasis Week 9.22-29*

## **MISSIONS EMPHASIS WEEK 2024**

Missions Emphasis Week is a time set aside by Grace Community Church to focus on missions - locally, nationally, and globally. Our focal point this year is **Every Tribe, Language, People, and Nation!**

**Sunday, Sept 22 | 8:30 & 10:15am**

Missions Emphasis Week kicks off during Sunday services with missions-focused messages and music.

**Wednesday, Sept 25 | 6:30 - 8pm**

Student Ministry invites the entire congregation to a missions presentation, which includes testimonies from international students in our own community and a Q&A about how people of every age can share the gospel with international students. Our field staff partner, Wade Summers, will also be on hand to answer questions and share about his work. Please consider attending that night to hear about how God is working through international student ministries.

**Saturday, Sept 28 | 5 - 7:30pm | *Sign Up Required***

Our partners with JLife — missionaries in Africa — will give a presentation and we will worship together with musicians from local Hispanic and African congregations. There's no cost for this event and childcare will be provided (*advance registration required*). Register By Sept 23 on [graceb3.org/events](https://graceb3.org/events)

**Sunday, Sept 29 | 8:30 & 10:15am**

We will wrap up Missions Emphasis Week with a sermon from John Abrahamse, our missionary/field staff. After the services, we invite all of you to the gym for our annual missions fair. Plan to visit with dozens of local, national, and international missionary partners.

### **Questions?**

Contact the church office at [office@graceb3.org](mailto:office@graceb3.org)  
or call (319) 626-2040