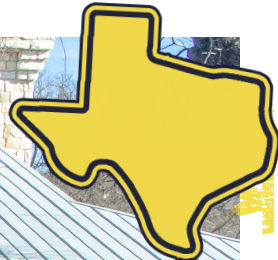


GRACE COVENANT UNIVERSITY

Commencement

Sunday, February 9
Class of 2020





GRACE YOUTH
WINTER RETREAT
2020

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Welcome to



Grace Covenant University (Winter Retreat 2020)

was an amazing weekend filled with opportunities for you to build closer relationships with friends, spend time with leaders and grow in your relationship with

Christ. We played games, stayed up way too late, ate ramen noodles and enjoyed a wonderful time together at Camp Buckner. We were blessed to experience phenomenal worship led once again by the Tyler Daniel Band, and we learned about the Bible in a new way.

Our plan for this year's retreat was to teach two Walk Thru the Bible seminars: one for the Old Testament and one for the New Testament. I've read through the Bible many times, I was a religious studies major in college and I went to seminary, but nothing has helped me understand the narrative arc of Scripture, how the books of the Bible fit together and where they fit more than the 80 phrases and hand signs of Walk Thru the Bible.

The goal was not simply to memorize hand signs and words about the Bible but rather to provide you with a framework for how to think about the Bible and the books of the Bible as you read and study God's Word. The Bible can seem overwhelming and confusing sometimes, and these phrases and hand signs help create understanding and clarity. All these stories—some you may remember from when you were a kid, others you read and don't understand what's happening—have a

connective thread running through each of them. From Genesis to Revelation, page 1 to 1000+, the Bible is ONE story. It's God's story of love and redemption. We hope that this weekend helped you make that connection.

Wear your GCU stuff around school, throw a sticker on your water bottle and practice those hand signs whenever you're at a red light. Remember that you are a Shepherd and that you can spend time with God in His Word, you can tell others about Him and can praise Him together.

In this notebook you'll find additional resources. We hope you enjoy it!

Kevin Maurice
Youth Pastor

Commencement!



“*THE BIBLE IS
THE BOOK
OF MY LIFE.
IT'S THE
BOOK I
LIVE WITH,
THE BOOK
I LIVE BY,
THE BOOK
I WANT TO
DIE BY.*”

—N.T.
WRIGHT

BIBLE VERSES



The word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Hebrews 4:12

Jesus answered, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

Matthew 4:4

How can a young person stay on the path of purity? By living according to your word.

Psalms 119:9



Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

Matthew 7:24

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness.

2 Timothy 3:16

So shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

Isaiah 55:11

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

Colossians 3:16

Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.

Psalms 119:105

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

James 1:22



WALK THRU THE BIBLE *RECAP*



OLD TESTAMENT

OT301

Creation
Fall
Flood
Nations
Abraham
Isaac
Jacob
Joseph

Moses
Passover
Law
Tabernacle
Offerings / Feasts
Counting / Spying
Wandering / Dying
Second Law

Joshua
Divide / Conquer
12 Tribes
Judges
Deborah
Gideon
Samson
Everyone did what was
right in their own eyes
except Ruth and...

Samuel
United Kingdom
Saul / No Heart
David / Whole Heart
Solomon / Half Heart
Divided Kingdom
Mostly Bad Kings
Prophets Speak

Israel Scattered
Judah Exiled
Judah Returns
Zerubbabel / Temple
Esther / Queen
Ezra / People
Nehemiah / Walls
Wait...Christ



NEW TESTAMENT

NT301 

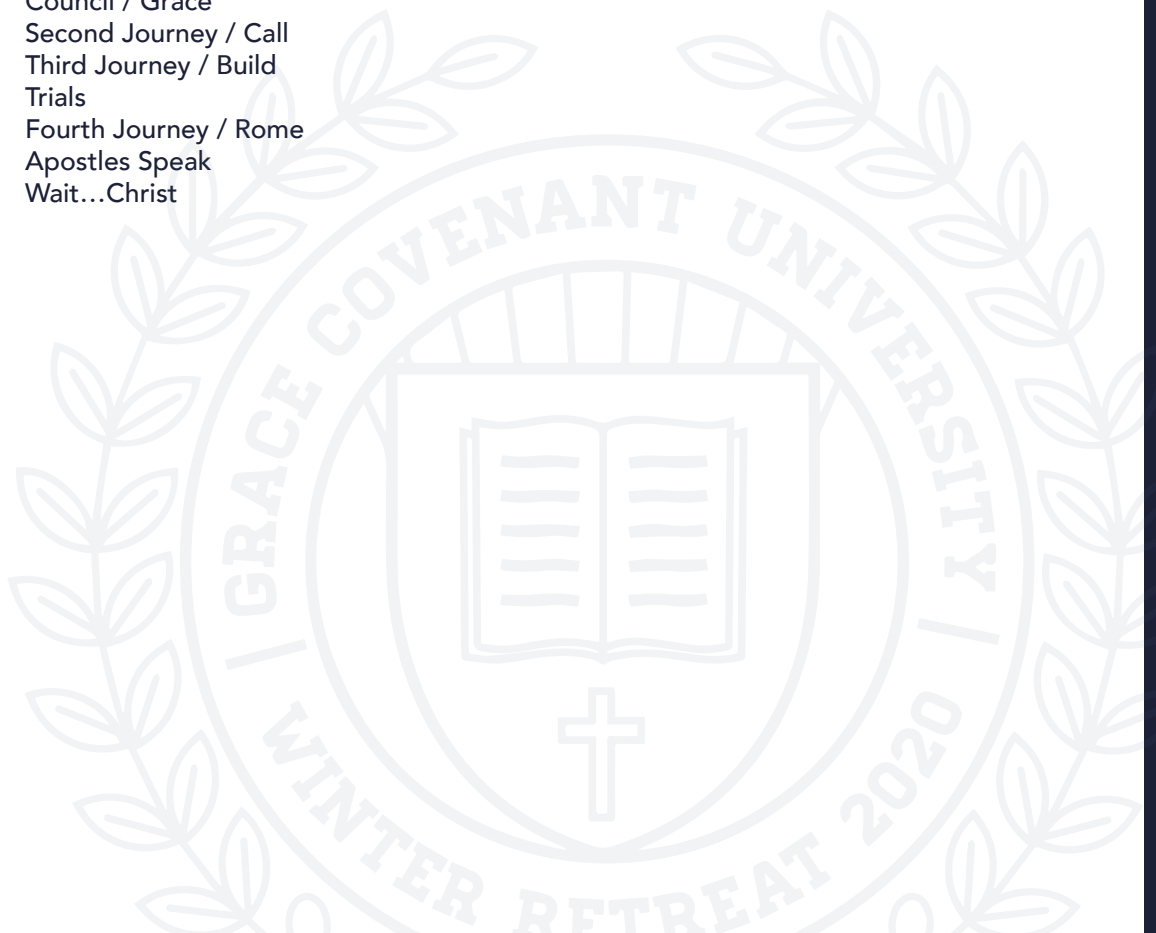
Greece / Language
Israel / Hopes
Rome / Roads
Birth
Baptized by John
Tempted by Satan
Second Birth
Woman at the Well

Spirit
Community
Servant Leaders
Stephen
Persecution
Phillip's Preaching
Paul's Conversion
Peter's Vision

Rejection / Selection
Parables / Miracles
Testimony of Peter
Transfiguration
Counting the Cost
Seeking the Lost
Lazarus Raised
Zacchaeus Praised

1st Journey / Law
Council / Grace
Second Journey / Call
Third Journey / Build
Trials
Fourth Journey / Rome
Apostles Speak
Wait...Christ

Triumphal Entry
Temple Cleansing
Last Supper
Prayed / Betrayed
Tried / Denied
Crucified
Resurrected
Ascended







THANK YOU

BAND

Tyler Daniel Band

GRACE STAFF

Matt Cassidy

Tammy Davenport

ADULT LEADERS

College Crew

Bethany Dollar

Natalye McCammon

Claudia Morris

Kate Henke

Jonny Castillo

Jacob Pichette

Grade 7

Eric Wachsmann

Marion Wachsmann

Amy Kidwell

Grade 8

Jon Kinder

Scott Magee

Nikki Magee

Grade 9

Patrick Smith

Kim Smith

Angelo Feller

Carol Feller

Jackson Powell

Grade 10

Randy Findley

Jenna Findley

Matt Rinn

Austin McCredie

Marianne Lawson

Grade 11

Gary Wallis

Janelle Wallis

Justin Kreis

Molly Kreis

Grade 12

Tyler Humes

LaRae Humes

Cathy Clark

Brooke Findley

Jacob Friedrich

Becca Eckert

John Stanley



PRODUCTION & A/V

Heather Werle

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BE A SHEPHERD

KEVIN MAURICE

8 There were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock at night. 9 And an angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them and they were filled with great fear. 10 But the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." 13 And suddenly, there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, 14 "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!" (Luke 2:8-14)

The power of this passage of Scripture is sometimes lost on me because I typically only read it during the Christmas season. But what the angels proclaim to the shepherds is a world-altering event, and the way that the shepherds respond to the Gospel, meaning "good news," gives us insight into how we can and should live as followers of Christ. At Grace Covenant University, our mascot was a shepherd, and we encouraged each of you to *be a shepherd* because shepherds have three responses to the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Shepherds seek the Christ. They seek the Savior that they've just been told about. They hear the message and say, "That sounds awesome—let's go check it out." Luke 2 continues on to say it this way:

15 When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." 16 And they hurried and found Mary and Joseph and the baby lying in a manger.

For those shepherds, it's not enough just to *hear* the message from the angels, they want to *experience* it for themselves. They hurry from the field into the nearby city because they want to be in the presence of this Savior. And just as the shepherds did, we can seek our Savior, too. We can seek to be in the presence of Christ. The Bible tells us in 1 Chronicles 22:19, "Set your mind and heart to seek the LORD your God." In Psalm 105:4, we're told to, "Seek the LORD...seek His presence continually."

What does this look like practically? The truth is that God revealed Himself to the world when He took on human flesh and became a man. And He continues to reveal Himself to the world through His Word. The Bible is the living, breathing Word of God. Therefore, spending time in God's Word is spending time getting to know Him and to better understand His heart. We emphasized learning the overall structure of Bible at GCU so that you'd have a better understanding of God's ultimate story.

Shepherds spread the Word. The shepherds get to Bethlehem and find the family; they're in the presence of Jesus and they start telling everyone about it. They share the good news that the angel had told them.



17 And when they had seen Him, they spread the word concerning what had been told to them about this child. 18 And all who heard it were in wonder at what the shepherds told them. 19 But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.

Did you know that it's this group of shepherds who tell Mary and Joseph that their Son, Jesus, is the Savior and the Christ? In Luke 1, the angel Gabriel appears to Mary and tells her she's going to have a son and she



will name Him Jesus. The angel tells her that He'll be the son of God and that He'll rule over the Kingdom of God. But the angel doesn't mention the words Savior or Christ. You know who tells Mary that? It's the shepherds, relaying the message they'd just received!

To me, this is one of the most fascinating things about the birth of Christ. With the greatest pronouncement that the world had ever heard—the birth of the Savior, the Christ, meaning the Messiah—for this Good News, the shepherds heard it from the angels! Everybody else heard it from those shepherds. Then, in response to the glory of God, out of joy, these shepherds spread the word.

They did this as a natural overflow of their encounter and experience with God. They weren't theologians or pastors or missionaries. They were shepherds. Who in your life, in your friend group or family, are you being called to spread the word to? Because, the truth is, if you're a follower of Christ, becoming more and more like Him, the inevitable overflow of your encounter and experience with Him will be to tell others about *who He is*.

*Shepherds Seek Christ.
Shepherds Spread the Word.
Shepherds Praise God Together.*

Shepherds praise God together. This incredible, joyous night for the shepherds had ended. And now, they have to go back. There's sheep that were left alone all night. And notice in Luke 2:20 how they go back: "And so the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told to them." They go back home, and they go back to work. They've experienced the God of the Universe laying in a manger and then they return to their normal, everyday, mundane lives. But as they return, they collectively praise God for all they'd heard and seen.

They praise God together. I love this final act because we see what the community of God looks like. Because the Gospel draws us into God's story of redemption and into God's community. And so, we have a mission as shepherds. It's the same mission that these shepherds had. To seek God, to tell others about Him and to praise Him together. We do all of this in community. *Be a shepherd.*

THE IMPORTANCE OF GOD'S WORD

SARAH RINN

Our prayer for each of you after the winter retreat is that the lessons from the weekend would continue to stick with you and help build upon your time reading the Bible. However, we want to remind you of something: You could memorize all of the hand signs from Genesis to Revelation perfectly, but this should be to supplement your Bible reading practice, not replace your time in the Word. We can't just know about God's Word. We also have to know God's Word itself, spending time reading, studying and applying what it says. Two verses in Scripture tell us more about why this is important.

2 Timothy clearly explains some important reasons for Christ-followers to study God's Word: "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

The first thing to take away from these verses is that the Bible is the Word of God, written for humanity. The words are "God-breathed," straight from the mouth of God. If the Creator of the world wrote a letter directly to you, wouldn't you want to know what it said? You can! That's what the Bible offers. This is not something to take lightly or an opportunity we should pass up!

Additionally, 2 Timothy tells us that God's Word is useful

for His followers. The Bible is one of the most valuable tools that Christians have available to them. The Bible teaches us about the way God has been working in the world, from creation through the growth of the nation of Israel, then on to the life of Jesus and the establishment of the early Church. To understand the narrative of Scripture is to understand the way God has always been working for His people and for His will. The Word of God is also useful for rebuking and correcting, meaning it helps us recognize our sin, learn how and why we are called to repent and show us a better way of life than continuing in our own sinfulness. Praise God that we aren't stuck in a spiral of sin with no knowledge that there is a better way to do life! This verse also talks about this better way of life, a life lived with God and in obedience to His standard of righteousness. Through God's words in the Bible, we can learn how to follow God better.

The final section of verse 17 tells us why all these things matter. Why should we care about learning what Scripture says, recognizing and repenting from sin, and learning to walk in righteousness? All of these things that the Bible offers us are all for the purpose of preparing us to do every good work that God has prepared for us to do. The words of the Bible provide tools we need in order to fulfill our purpose as children of God.

Finally, Hebrews 4:12 tells us that "the word of God is



alive and active.” God’s Word actively speaks to us in different seasons of life. The Bible has an infinite number of lessons to teach us. This is why we can’t just read the Bible once and then be done with it. You may read a certain story in the Bible twenty times, and on the twenty-first time you read it, God can speak to you and teach you something from that passage that you have never seen before. God’s Word always has something new to teach you about the Lord, His story, how He works in our lives and how we should respond to that. There is always room to grow. We are constantly being sanctified, shaped more and more into how God has designed us, which is an ongoing process, and the Bible is one of the key methods through which God brings about growth in our lives.



The Word of God

I think of as a straight edge, which shows up our own crookedness. We can’t really tell how crooked our thinking is until we line it up with the straight edge of Scripture.”

–Elisabeth Elliot

HOW DO I READ THE BIBLE?

COLE ELLERBROCK



What a great question to ask! The Bible is a book composed of various literary styles by many different authors, written to a wide-range of audiences and, not to mention, penned thousands of years ago in various cultures vastly different than our own. So how do we move from being a people that thinks the Bible is outdated and confusing to being a people that can navigate through Scripture effectively? How can we get to a place where Scripture is not just an ancient, unfamiliar text but truly, as the Psalmist says, a “lamp to my feet, and a light to my path” (Psalm 119:105)?

The Apostle Paul gives us a great reminder regarding the nature of the Bible: “All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work” (2 Timothy 3:16-17). The Bible is one of the most significant ways God has chosen to reveal Himself to us, and the benefits of being a student of this book are endless. If our goal is to become like Christ in all of life, we must be shaped by the book that God has written and the book that Jesus Himself quoted and discussed constantly. Therefore, again, I ask, how can we read Scripture effectively?

A few years ago, my family and I vacationed in San Diego, and I was given the opportunity to paraglide off

the beautiful cliffs of La Jolla Beach. Paragliding is an activity where you’re attached to a parachute, run off a cliff and glide through the air. Being my first time to glide, I was harnessed to an expert. We took flight, and after minutes of flying, he asked me, “would you like to take the reins?” “Hmm...sure,” I nervously replied. Shortly after taking control, we banked hard to the right and started to drop several feet. I got dizzy. “Yeah, I’ll go ahead and take those reins back,” the expert said.

To become a great paraglider, it requires much more than just taking the reins and hoping all works out. It takes years of practice and hundreds of gliding trips. Learning to read Scripture effectively is no different. If you are new to reading the Bible or are looking to improve your Bible reading, my hope is not to give you the reins of Scripture and hope everything works out. In the paragraphs below, you will find a tried, tested and effective method for approaching the Word of God.

This method we’ll explore is one that has been used by Christians for many years to gain a deeper understanding of God’s Word and a method that, if practiced in the power of the Holy Spirit, will transform your relationship with Christ and your devotion to Him. Now I will be upfront with you, this way of studying Scripture does not come without costs. It will require time, effort, humility and a willingness to allow God to transform your heart. But I can assure you that in the same way the hard work



of lifting weights builds a strong muscle, the hard work of studying Scripture effectively will make you a strong follower of Christ.

Let's jump into the method, shall we?

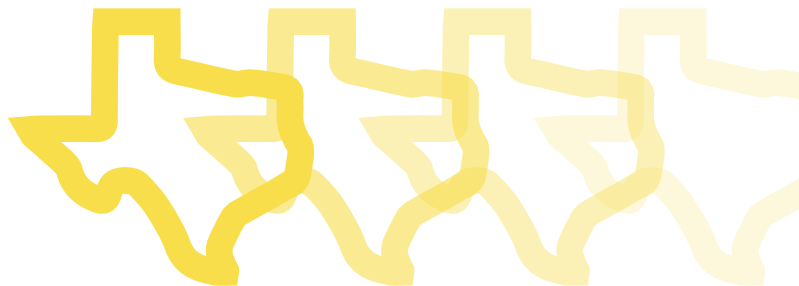
OBSERVE

Our first task in our study of Scripture is to observe the passage. It is here, at the starting point of reading, where we take on the role of a detective. As Scripture detectives, we're going to answer the question, "what do I see in this passage?" We will examine the words, looking for the facts. We ask ourselves questions: "Who, what, where, when and how? Who is the author? Who was it written to? What's the setting? What tense are the words written in?" We develop a framework of the passage, allowing ourselves to be a fly on the wall of when these words were originally written.

This may seem like a tedious, perhaps monotonous task, but I guarantee that strong observation will lead to effectively mastering the final two steps of the method.

INTERPRET

Our second task is to interpret. In interpretation, we will answer the question, "what does this passage mean?" A key note to be aware of while interpreting



is to not ask "what does this passage mean to me?" Instead, ask these two questions: "What does this text actually mean? What has God intended for it to mean?" Howard Hendricks, a great Bible teacher, wrote, "'Meaning' is not our subjective thoughts read into the text but God's objective truth read out of the text." If our role in observation is that of a detective, our role in interpretation is to put ourselves in the author's shoes. What was he thinking? How was he feeling? What message was he trying to convey? It's important we put ourselves in the author's shoes because there are many contextual barriers between us and the ancient Middle East, and if we do not interpret through the original meaning, we can steer away from God's intent.

And finally, we arrive to our final step of effective Bible study...

APPLY

Our final task is to apply the passage. This final step is critical. We do not study the Bible to work on the Bible, but rather we study the Bible to allow the Bible to work on us. If we are to become knowledgeable students of the Bible but do not allow the Bible to transform the way we live, we are missing the point of reading Scripture. As we conclude our Bible study, we want to ask ourselves questions such as: "Is there an example to follow? A promise to hold on to? A command to obey? A sin to run from?"

Observe. Interpret. Apply. Three tasks, that if you consistently practice in the power of God's grace, can lead you to not only becoming an effective student of God's Word but also an effective follower of Christ. Now that you've learned this tried and true method, give it a try! Embark on the greatest adventure of all—a life shaped by God's Word.

Additional

★ RESOURCES ★



THE BIBLE PROJECT

THEBIBLEPROJECT.COM

This is an online animation studio that creates videos to tell the story of the Bible. Their videos cover all 66 books in Scripture and dive into various themes in the Bible.

"LIVING BY THE BOOK"

HOWARD & WILLIAM HENDRICKS

This book is a great resource for learning how to study the Bible and maximize your Bible reading time. The book covers three key components to effective Bible Study: Observation, Interpretation and Application.



"30 DAYS TO UNDERSTANDING THE BIBLE"

MAX ANDERS

This is an interactive book that helps the reader understand the key events, people, places and teachings of the Bible. In about 15 minutes per day for 30 days, you can grasp a firm understanding of the story of Scripture.

"HOW TO READ THE BIBLE FOR ALL ITS WORTH"

GORDON FEE & DOUGLAS STUART

This book makes effective Bible reading accessible for everyone—from Bible scholars to new Bible readers and everyone in between. Fee and Stuart cover how to read the different parts of Scripture well and help the reader get the most out of God's Word.





“**NOBODY** EVER OUTGROWS
SCRIPTURE; THE BOOK WIDENS
AND DEEPENS WITH OUR YEARS.”

—CHARLES SPURGEON

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