

BELONG



PRAYING

FOR

OTHERS

- Pray silently for the prayer request printed in your worship guide.
- Our Preschool
- Our small group led by Jim & Lisa Leggett
- Our church plant WordServe
- Neighboring church service this morning at Go Church
- Our mission team serving in Kenya led by Jessi
- The Ban*jar of Indonesia

We ask all this for the glory of Your name.

“For My House Shall Be Called A House Of Prayer For All Nations.” Isaiah 56:7

Need Prayer? Monthly prayer opportunities in the Prayer Center.

PROPHETIC PRAYER – 2nd SUNDAYS 10:45AM-NOON.

HEALING PRAYER – 4th SUNDAYS 10:45AM-NOON.

Daily Prayer Meeting: Monday-Friday 11AM-NOON live and online at thegreatsouthwestprayercenter.org. **We have special prayer for the Middle East every Thursday at this time.**

Belong

“Made to Belong” – Genesis 1-2

August 18, 2024

Back to School Sermon Series

BELONG		
<i>A 7-Week Journey in God's Word to One of Your Most Important Life Essentials</i>		
Date	Message Title	Bible Text
Aug 18	Made to Belong	Genesis 1-2
Aug 25	Belonging Happens When We are Known and Loved	Romans 12:9-16
Sept 1	Belonging Requires Doing Life Together	Acts 2:42-47
Sept 8	Belonging Requires Risk <small>(Authenticity, Vulnerability, Honesty, Candor)</small>	Ephesians 4:25
Sept 15	Belonging Requires Resolving Conflict	Matthew 5:23-24
Sept 22	Belonging in Marriage	Genesis 2:24-25
Sept 29	Belonging in a Family	Psalms 127

The Purpose, Problem, Solution, and Hope of Belonging

1. We were _____ to belong.

- God exists in relationship. There is just one God (Deuteronomy 6:4), but He exists as an eternal relationship of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Genesis 1:1-3,26; Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14). We call this the Holy Trinity – one God who exists as Three Persons (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit).
- When God wanted to paint a picture of Himself, He created a family – a man, a woman, and eventually a child. We exist to be in relationship (Genesis 1:26-27).
- God does not want you to be alone (Genesis 2:18).
- U.S. Surgeon General: “Widespread loneliness poses health risks just as significant as smoking 15 cigarettes per day!”
- Harvard study: “People who have bad health habits (such as smoking, poor eating habits, obesity, bad sleep habits, or no exercise) but who have strong social ties live significantly longer than people who have great health habits but are isolated. In other words, it is better to eat Twinkies with good friends than to eat broccoli alone!”
- Rick Warren: “You were formed for God’s family. God wants a family, and He created you to be a part of it. This is one of God’s purposes for your life, which He planned before you were born. The entire Bible is the story of God building a family who will love Him, honor Him, and reign with Him forever.”

2. _____ has destroyed our belonging to God and others.

- In Genesis 3, humans sinned against God thus breaking our fellowship with God and with each other. One chapter later we see

the first murder when Cain kills his brother Abel. Sin has destroyed our belonging to God and to each other.

- **Romans 3:23** – *All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*
- **Romans 6:23** – *The wages of sin is death (separation from God and each other).*
- **Isaiah 53:6** – *We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way.*
- **Romans 5:12** – *Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned.*

3. God has a plan for restoring belonging.

(a) The heart of God's plan is _____.

- **Romans 5:8** – *But God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*
- **2 Corinthians 5:17-19** – *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to Himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.*

(b) The principles for God's plan for restoring our belong are found in _____.

- **2 Peter 1:4** (NLT) – *And because of His glory and excellence, He has given us great and precious promises. These are the promises that enable you to share His divine nature and escape the world's corruption caused by human desires.*
- **2 Timothy 3:16-17** (NLT) – *All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to... correct us when we are wrong and to teach us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip His people to do every good work.*
- Relational belonging principles from the Bible that we are going to study together over the next 6 weeks (which one or two of these do you most need right now):
 - Belonging happens best when we are known and loved** (Romans 12:9-16). AUGUST 25
 - Belonging happens when we do life together** (Acts 2:42-47). SEPTEMBER 1
 - Belonging requires that we risk authenticity, vulnerability, honesty, and candor** (Ephesians 4:25). SEPT 8
 - Belonging requires resolving conflict** (Matthew 5:23-24). SEPTEMBER 15
 - Belonging principles for marriage** (Genesis 2:24-25). SEPTEMBER 22
 - Belonging principles for a family** (Psalm 127). SEPT 29

(c) The power for God’s plan is _____.

- *Titus 3:3-6 (NLT) – Once we, too, were foolish and disobedient. We were misled and became slaves to many lusts and pleasures. Our lives were full of evil and envy, and we hated each other. But when God our Savior revealed His kindness and love, He saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy. He washed away our sins, giving us a new birth and new life through the Holy Spirit. He generously poured out the Spirit upon us through Jesus Christ our Savior.*
- **Acts 1:8** – *But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you...*
- The power to reconcile our relationships and to live the belonging principles comes from God’s Spirit living inside of us (if we have invited Him to live inside of us and to sit in the driver’s seat of our lives).

(d) The hope of God’s plan is _____.

- **Revelation 21:4-5** – *(In Heaven), God will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.... I am making all things new.*
- Randy Alcorn: “In Heaven, we will experience all the best of human relationships, with none of the worst. The burdens and tragedies of life will be lifted from us. We’ll be free of what displeases God and damages relationships.”

My Application of Belonging Today

- Believe and Receive Jesus.** I choose to begin my journey of belonging to God and others by receiving Jesus Christ. Make this your prayer today:

God, I am sorry for my sins. I repent. Jesus, I believe that You died on the cross for my sins and that You rose from the dead. I receive You into my life. Now, please make me into the person that You want me to be.

- Get Baptized.** Our next immersion baptism service is Sunday, September 8, at 12:45PM. For more info or to sign up go to WhatIsGrace.org/Baptisms
- Come the Next 6 Sundays.** In order to learn and grow in the Bible’s principles of belonging, I am committing to attending the next 6 Sundays (or joining online if I have to be out of town).

- **Apply a Belonging Principle Now.** In the power of God's Spirit, I am going to...
 - Know and love others;
 - Be known and receive love from others;
 - Spend quality and quantity time with others;
 - Take a Spirit-directed risk of authenticity, vulnerability, honesty, and candor;
 - Ask forgiveness of someone that I have hurt;
 - Forgive someone who hurt me;
 - Take a step of growth, closeness, partnership, connection, and intimacy in my marriage;
 - Take a step of prioritizing and loving my family.
- **Surrender Control to God's Spirit:** "I cannot live the belonging principles in my own power... so... Spirit of Jesus Christ, I ask You to sit in the driver's seat of my life and to direct, control, and empower my life and my relationships."
- **Say Yes to Belong.** I am going to take my next step to belonging in the spiritual family of my church by plugging into a group and/or serving of some kind. I'm going to show up next Sunday (Aug 25) for "Say Yes to Belong" on the porch/lobby. I'm going to start exploring Grace Fellowship's website: [WhatlsGrace.org/SayYes](https://www.whatlsgrace.org/SayYes)
- **Consider Joining This Church Family.** Grace Fellowship offers two lunch classes called "Connecting at Grace" to help you explore the possibility of making this your church home. Next lunches are on Sept. 22 & 29. More info and sign up: [WhatlsGrace.org/SayYes](https://www.whatlsgrace.org/SayYes)



SAY YES!

Townes Lucy | MEDIA DIRECTOR

“ I love being a part of the Media team because I love the people that I serve with! They make me want to be better and do more for the Lord and them! ”

Townes serves on Sunday mornings, giving guidance to our camera team and those who run slides. She **said YES** to what the Lord had been working within her and that's our desire for each person at Grace Fellowship.

Join us next Sunday, August 25 to help you find a place where you can **SAY YES to serve and Belong!**

WhatIsGrace.org/SayYes

REGISTRATION OPEN

CARE MINISTRY CLASSES



DIVORCECARE

Starts Monday evenings August 19 through November 18, 2024 from 6:45PM - 8:15PM

GRIEFSHARE

Starts August 28 from 6:30PM - 8PM

PARENTING WITH GRACE

Starts August 21 through October 16 from 7PM - 8:15PM

MARRIAGE MATTERS

Starts September 9 through November 11 from 7PM - 8:30PM

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

Starts September 9 through November 4 from 6:45PM - 8:30PM



Learn more about Care Ministry and Register for the upcoming Fall classes at WhatIsGrace.org/Care

LARGE PROJECT SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

CHURCH
has
LEFT
the BUILDING
YOU CAN MAKE A
DIFFERENCE



We are very thankful to our large project leaders and their faithful leadership as they facilitate the following projects. As you will see, there is a wide variety of community-serving opportunities to serve and glorify God during CHLB24!

PRAYER WALK

Pray and praise powerfully to bless the community.

INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH

Converse with our international friends regarding USA finances and home-buying.

NEIGHBORHOOD KIDZ CLUB

A festival of fun and fellowship with friends old and new.

BOYS AND GIRLS COUNTRY (ORPHANAGE)

Games, crafts, bouncy house and snowcones.

THE BALLARD HOUSE

Bless the Ballard House: Serve, Shine, Worship, Dine

GARDEN OF GRACE

Help harvest God's bounty in our Garden of Grace

GULF COAST BLOOD CENTER

Give blood and hope with a drive for life

KATY CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

Help transform lives in our community through God's grace and service

KATY RESPONDS

Help to provide restoration and renewed hope to under-resourced families hit by disaster.

PREGNANCY HELP CENTER OF WEST HOUSTON

Serve and see the PHC to empower women to choose life.

CAMP HOPE

They have served us, it is our turn to serve them!

FEED THE HUNGER

Pack meals and enjoy the most fun you can have in a hairnet!

COMPASSION KATY

Build our relationship with Sundown Elementary through service, fellowship and fun!

CLOTHED BY FAITH

Clothing our neighbors with hope and dignity.

HENLEY WOMEN'S STATE JAIL

Celebrate God's redemption in action

ISAIAH 6:8

Serve where the Holy Spirit sends you

Your participation is essential to the success of this outreach. There is no way we could do this without you! Please prayerfully consider where you and your family will be led to serve. WhatIsGrace.org/CHLB24