

# BELONGING



**PRAYING**

**FOR**

**OTHERS**

- Pray silently for the prayer request printed in your worship guide.
- Our Fifth Grade students
- Our small group led by Ted & Trisha Mohle
- The Bible Seminary
- Neighboring church service this morning at Hosanna Church
- Our mission team serving in Mexico led by Mitch Trotter
- The Ban\*jar of Indonesia
- God's will over the upcoming election
- Peace in the Middle East

*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***

**Lifestyle of Prayer Workshop** – Sign-up at [WhatIsGrace.org/Prayer](http://WhatIsGrace.org/Prayer). Are you curious about how the Lord speaks or about Prophetic Prayer? Sign up for **"Does God still speak today?"** – Starting today from 3-5PM.

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

# Belong

“Belonging in a Family”

Nehemiah 4:13-14 – September 29, 2024

## Back to School Sermon Series

BELONG		
A 7-Week Journey in God's Word to One of Your Most Important Life Essentials		
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 (Authenticity, Vulnerability, Honesty, Candor)	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	Nehemiah 4:13-14

### CHLB Sign Up

Next Sunday, Oct. 6<sup>th</sup>



### Men's Retreat Sign Up

Fri, Oct. 11<sup>th</sup> – Sat, Oct. 12<sup>th</sup>



## The Book of Nehemiah

### Quick Background

- Nehemiah is the cupbearer for the king of Persia.
- He feels called by God to repair the walls in Jerusalem.
- He seeks God's guidance and God provides miraculously.
- But then opposition arises.

### Nehemiah 4

- It starts to get *messy*. Both externally & internally.
- So, what does Nehemiah do?

### Verse 13: He groups them up by families (clans)

- Hebrew word: *mišpāḥâ* – clan, family, tribe
- And Nehemiah tells these families that it is time to get serious (“Get your armor. And get ready to fight.”)

## Verse 14: Nehemiah looks at these families and says...

- *Do not be afraid of them*
  - Don't let a messy circumstance cloud what is true.
- *Remember who your God is*
  - He is great. And He is awesome.
- *And fight for your family*
  - Brothers, sons, daughters, wives, homes.

## How Do You Fight for Your Family?

### 1 – Fight to See Your Family as \_\_\_\_\_

#### Family is God's Idea

- **Genesis 1:27-28** – *So God created man in his own image... male and female he created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply.'*
- **Psalm 127:3** – *Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward.*

**John Stonestreet** – "Family is not a human invention, it's a divine creation. God made family before He made the church, before He made the state. Family is foundational to the way God works in the world."

**Application #1** – Honest assessment: Are you seeing your family (spouse, kids, parents, siblings, extended family) as God does? What are three ways you can see God's goodness in your family?

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### 2 – Fight to \_\_\_\_\_ the Mess

#### Fighting for your family is hard

- **Galatians 6:9** – *And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.*
- **Judges 8:4** – *And Gideon came to the Jordan and crossed over, he and the 300 with them, exhausted yet pursuing.*

**Justin Whitmel Earley** – "Family life is a liturgy of love and sacrifice in the midst of chaos. It's messy, it's beautiful, and it's the primary context where the gospel gets worked out in everyday life."

**Tim Kimmel** – "Parenting isn't about creating perfect children. It's about pointing our imperfect kids to the perfect God."

**Application #2** – When it's hard, that doesn't necessarily mean you are doing something wrong. What is something "messy" in your family right now? Don't pull away or give up. Bring God into your mess and trust Him with it. Maybe write "exhausted yet pursuing" on your mirror.

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### **3 – Fight to \_\_\_\_\_ Your Family**

#### **Be intentional with the time you have with your family**

- **Ephesians 5:15-16** – *Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.*
- **Deuteronomy 6:6-7** – *And these words that I command you... You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.*

**The Four "P's"**: Have a *Plan*, be *Present*, be a *Parent*, be a *Passionate* Follower of Jesus (Fuel: PRAYER!)

**Todd Wagner** – "You don't fall into successful, intentional human development. Extraordinary homes don't just let things fall their way. I tell people, come up with something you intend to do. Start simply and simply start. Most of us have a plan for our fitness, a plan for our eating, a plan for how to develop our careers, a plan for our retirement, and we don't have a plan for the most precious stewardship in life that God has given us: the ability to give birth to and shape to eternal humanity made in the image of God."

**Application #3** – Where do you need to create intentional moments with your family this week? (Phone calls, family night, sabbath, etc.)

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## 4 – Fight for \_\_\_\_\_ in Your Family

### Story of the Bible is filled with family strife

- **Genesis 4:9** – *Then the Lord said to Cain, “Where is Abel your brother?” He said, “I do not know; am I my brother’s keeper?”*
- **Genesis 50:19-20** – *But Joseph said to them, “Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good.”*
- **Colossians 3:13 (NIV)** – *Bear with each other and forgive one another... forgive as the Lord forgave you.*

**Application #4** – Unity is worth fighting for. Where is division present in your family? Where is God calling you this week to seek forgiveness, reconciliation, and unity with a family member?

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## Conclusion: What Your Family Needs Most

**Matthew 16:25** – *For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it.*

**Ephesians 3:14-19** – *For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named... so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith... and you may know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.*

**Book:** “Safer Than a Known Way” by Pamela Rosewell Moore

**Book:** “Habits of the Household” by Justin Whitmel Earley

**Book:** “Trust” by Henry Cloud



## Don't forget to register for CHLB24! Let's be a blessing to our Community!

There are two ways to register today...

1

Sign up for our **Isaiah 6:8 serving option** and truly serve where the Holy Spirit sends you! It's an easy way to connect with the right team and ministry on the right project.



Use this code to sign up for the Isaiah 6:8 project

**CHURCH LEFT**  
the BUILDING  
YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE  
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6

You can meet with our **Large Group leaders** in the lobby and register directly with projects that are still looking for volunteers!

2



Learn more at  
[WhatIsGrace.org/CHLB24](https://WhatIsGrace.org/CHLB24)

Questions?  
Email [CHLB@WhatIsGrace.org](mailto:CHLB@WhatIsGrace.org)



# MAKE ROOM FOR GRACE

\$12.5M

## FALL 2024 UPDATE

**Grace Fellowship, we are doing it!**

One year in, and we're nearly 40% closer to building a lasting legacy for God's Kingdom!



\$4.8M



Your generosity is making this vision a reality. Let's keep the momentum going!

[WhatIsGrace.org/MakeRoom](https://WhatIsGrace.org/MakeRoom)



# HOPE

## IN A HOUSE OF BLUES

New Series Starting October 13th

 Grace  
Fellowship

OCTOBER 11-12  
Camp Cho-Yeh  
Livingston, TX

# MEN'S RETREAT

REGISTER TODAY

**"ACT LIKE MEN-FACE THE CHALLENGE"**

1 Corinthians 16:13-14

"Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, **act like men**,  
be strong. Let all that you do be done in love."

