



## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION & CLASS LISTINGS

*And this is our prayer: that our  
love may abound more and more in  
knowledge and depth of insight . . .*

— Philipians 1:9



*Faith Seeking Understanding*

## WHY GRACE U?

**W**e are often encouraged to read the Bible. But reading Scripture passages is just an entry point. We must go more deeply into God's Word and allow it to go more deeply into us. The classes of **Grace U** are designed to help you go deeper through intentional study of God's Word, unlocking the full richness and application of biblical teachings. Here's why participating in **Grace U** to study the Bible is beneficial:

### **It Helps You Understand Context**

Studying helps uncover the historical and cultural contexts in which the Bible was written—revealing what the author meant and how the original audience understood the text—as well as how individual passages fit within the larger narrative of the Bible.

### **It Helps You Avoid Misinterpretation**

Studying helps to identify the nuances and complexities within the text, fostering a more profound understanding of God's character, His plan for humanity, and implications for daily living.

### **It Helps Bring Transformative Growth**

Studying helps bring spiritual growth and maturity, equipping believers to understand what they believe and why, to share their faith, and to minister to others effectively.

### **It Helps You Engage Critics & Skeptics**

Studying helps equip you to discern truth from falsehood, allowing you to address criticisms and misinterpretations of the text and offer informed responses and as you defend the faith.

*Faith Seeking Understanding*

**Our Grace U motto is “faith seeking understanding,” a concept attributed to 11th-century theologian Anselm of Canterbury. It means that believers should not only have faith but also strive to understand the reasons behind their beliefs and how those beliefs relate to their life and the world around them. It emphasizes that faith can be a starting point for deeper understanding of God's eternal plan.**

## OBJECTIVES

**Grace U pursues the following objectives:**

- ❖ To develop a unified, structured, and well-promoted program of biblically-based education for adults.
- ❖ To offer classes on a broad range of topics ranging from foundational content for new believers to practical instruction on living the Christian life to instruction on reaching and discipling others to developing a deep Biblical understanding.
- ❖ To promote spiritual maturity, helping believers grow in their faith and become more like Christ in conduct and character.
- ❖ To promote the development of spiritual disciplines such as prayer, personal Bible study, and reflection.
- ❖ To equip and train new generations of Christian leaders.
- ❖ To remain consistent with and true to GCC's beliefs and faith commitments.
- ❖ To support rather than supplant Life Groups by equipping leaders and providing content for deeper study and discussion.

## FAQ

### **DO I NEED TO REGISTER FOR CLASSES?**

You are strongly encouraged to register in advance. Walk-ins are welcome, but you risk walking into a full class that may not have sufficient materials or space for you.

### **IS THERE A COST?**

There is no tuition, but there may be a cost for materials—check out the class descriptions. In some cases, materials are available when you register or at the first class. In others, each student is asked to purchase materials online in advance.

### **WHAT IF I AM UNABLE TO ATTEND THE FIRST CLASS?**

No worries, but please email the class teacher/facilitator in advance to let them know you won't be there.

### **HOW IMPORTANT IS REGULAR ATTENDANCE?**

Each class builds from week to week, so regular attendance is important and expected. Of course, we understand that “things come up,” but we expect that all participants will be able to attend at least 75% of the time.

### **IS THERE HOMEWORK?**

Generally, no. But some classes may include outside work to be completed, and others may provide for *optional* outside reading or discussion questions for personal or Life Group use.

### **ARE THE CLASSES ACCREDITED?**

Not at this time.

### **WHERE ARE CLASSES HELD?**

All classes are offered at Grace Community Church on Sunday mornings. Weeknight offerings have been added this quarter as well. See the class listing for specific class locations. (Locations subject to change based on class size or other factors.)

### **ARE CLASSES RECORDED?**

Sorry, no.

## AREAS OF LEARNING

A broad range of Grace U classes will be offered in the following tracks:

### ➤ FUNDAMENTALS OF THE FAITH TRACK

Classes in this track are intended for those who are newer in the faith to provide a foundation for Biblical understanding. Classes will include topics such as these:

- How to Study the Bible
- The Storyline of the Bible
- Ten Essentials: Christian Life
- Ten Essentials: Biblical Truths

### ➤ THE CHRISTIAN LIFE TRACK

Classes in this track focus on living the Christian life, such as these related to spiritual devotion, relationships, and finance:

- *Design for Discipleship* (Navigators series)
- Parenting, Marriage, and Relationship Electives
- *Financial Peace University*
- Discovering God's Will
- The Practice of Prayer

### ➤ BIBLE & THEOLOGY TRACK

Classes in this track focus on a deeper study of the Bible, theology, and Christian history. Here are just a few examples:

- The Persons of the Trinity
- Man, Sin, and Salvation
- Greek for Non-Greeks
- Books of the Bible Electives

### ➤ DISCIPLESHIP & OUTREACH TRACK

Classes in this track are designed to develop disciples of Christ with classes which focus on discipleship, evangelism, outreach, and missions, such as:

- *Alongsiders* (Navigators series)
- Christian Evidences: Reasons to Believe
- Momentum YES

### ➤ LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT TRACK

These classes, along with practicums in which you can “learn by leading,” are designed to build Christian leaders in the church and marketplace.

# GRACE U

## WINTER 2026 CALENDAR

Join us

... for the second quarter of a collection of classes for adults that we call **Grace U**. A variety of classes are offered on Sunday mornings during each of the three service times beginning January 11. **We're also adding two classes on Thursday evenings.** See the following pages for class times, locations, and descriptions.

**S**tudying the Bible is a journey of discovery, leading to a richer, more meaningful and transformative experience with God's Word than reading alone. **The classes of Grace U are intended to help you learn to “rightly handle the word of truth”** (2 Tim. 2:15).

Classes are offered during three quarters each year. Listed on the next three pages are descriptions of the classes available in the Winter Quarter (January through March). Our final quarter (Spring/Summer) will begin in April following Easter and continue into June.

Please look through the variety of classes offered during our Winter quarter and **make a plan to join us on the journey!**

### HOW TO REGISTER

You are encouraged to register in advance through **Church Community Builder** (CCB). Scan the QR code at right with your smart phone camera and click on the link to retrieve a registration form. Walk-ins are welcome, but you risk walking into a full class that may not have sufficient materials or space for you.



You're also invited to join us for a **Grace U Fair** to be held in the Main Lobby on Sunday, **January 4**, between services. You'll be able to learn more about the various classes, ask questions of the teachers/facilitators, and review course materials. And we'll help you register for any class you choose!

# January 11 – March 29 **WINTER 2026 CLASSES**

## During First Service (8:45AM)

### **Understanding the Bible's Storyline**

FUNDAMENTALS TRACK

Teacher: Ken McDuff  
Level: Beginning & Intermediate

**Sundays, Jan. 11 - March 29 (12 weeks) from 8:45-9:50AM in Rm. #101**  
Materials: "Understanding the Bible's Storyline" notes available at the first class (\$5)

No passage of Scripture is disconnected from the main theme and purpose of God's Word. But we tend to disconnect the content of various passages from the overall redemptive story of Scripture, focusing on what each passage says to us about how to live a better life and please God, failing to consider how it all fits together in a storyline that flows from beginning to end. In this class, we will survey the entire Bible and our goal is to see the unity of the Bible as it reveals God's plan of salvation for mankind from Genesis to Revelation.

### **The 21 Laws of Leadership**

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT TRACK

Teacher: John Bomar  
Level: All

**Sundays, Jan. 11 - March 29 (12 weeks) from 8:45-9:50AM in Rm. #100**  
Materials: *The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership* book by John Maxwell, to be purchased online

Develop your leadership legacy by honing in on how you lead. What do you do well? What do you need to improve on? Developing yourself as a leader enables you to lead others at a higher level. Grow your leadership skills from a Christian perspective by diving deep into the 21 Laws of Leadership.

## During Second Service (10:15AM)

### **The Minor Prophets: Their History, Message, and Impact**

BIBLE AND THEOLOGY TRACK

Teacher: Rich Lucas  
Level: Intermediate & Advanced

**Sundays, Jan. 11 - March 29 (12 weeks) from 10:15-11:20AM in Rm. #101**  
An exploration into the major themes and topics of the "Minor" Prophets, the last twelve books of the Old Testament. We'll examine the historical context of each book along with its key message, and we'll consider each book's impact, both at the time of its writing and through the centuries.

### **Calling and Creativity**

CHRISTIAN LIFE TRACK

Teacher: Steve Brock  
Level: All

**Sundays, Jan. 11 – March 1 (8 weeks) from 10:15-11:20AM in Rm. #103**

Understanding God's call on your life and figuring out what to do with your life has always been a mystery to most of us, not just when we're young and starting out, but even later, particularly when we approach retirement. There are a lot of opinions, but what does the Bible say about it? How do we discern God's will for our lives? And how do we learn to lean into the creativity we innately have as people created in the image of a creative God (especially if you don't think of yourself as creative)? Finally, how does our creativity affect our calling when we feel called to roles that don't seem creative?

### **MomentumYes**

DISCIPLESHIP & OUTREACH TRACK

Facilitator: Gary Weiman  
Level: ALL

**Sundays, Jan. 11 – Feb. 15 (6 weeks) from 10:15-11:20AM in Rm. #100**

This video and discussion-based class will inspire and empower you to take the Good News to your neighbors and the nations. You will have eye-opening moments together and mutually challenge one another to live out your faith, across the street and around the world. You will learn to understand how God is working and how you can get involved and be motivated to live with purpose and urgency in taking the Gospel to the nations. Join us on an adventure to discover finding your role in global missions, a journey to make Jesus known.

## During Third Service (11:45AM)

### **Cold Case Christianity Case Maker's Course**

DISCIPLESHIP & OUTREACH TRACK

Facilitator: Craig Luker  
Level: Intermediate

**Sundays, Jan. 11 - Mar. 29 (12 weeks) from 11:45AM-12:50PM in Rm. #101**

Are you ready to respond to objections against the existence of God, the reliability of the New Testament, or the resurrection of Jesus? This video-based apologetics course from J. Warner Wallace explores how to investigate these topics and more to make the case for the validity of the Biblical account.

*See the next page for Thursday evening offerings*

NEW

## THURSDAY EVENING CLASSES

**THIS QUARTER**, Grace U is adding two classes that meet on Thursday evenings as an alternate option for those who are unable to attend on Sunday mornings—or who want to take more than one Grace U class.

### Thursday Evenings at 6:30PM

#### How to Study and Love the Bible Again

CHRISTIAN LIFE TRACK

Thursdays, Jan. 8 – March 12 (10 weeks) from 6:30-8:00PM in Rm. #122

If you're ready to really understand your Bible—and to enjoy meeting God in His Word again—this class is for you. You will refresh your love for Scripture, moving from guilt and boredom to joy and confidence when you open your Bible. You'll learn to use contemporary study tools alongside age-proven, pen-and-paper methods that have trained believers for centuries—no tech expertise required. Learn step-by-step how to see what the text actually says instead of just repeating what you've always heard. Ultimately, you'll learn to handle God's Word carefully and faithfully, so your mind is equipped and your heart craves God's word.

Teacher: Lee Escobar  
Level: Intermediate & Advanced

#### Discipleship II

DISCIPLESHIP & OUTREACH TRACK

Thursdays, Jan. 8 – Mar. 12 (10 weeks) from 6:30-8:00PM in Rm. #103

Materials: *DFD 3: Walking with Christ* and *DFD 4: The Character of a Follower of Jesus*, to be purchased online

This class continues last quarter's "Your Life in Christ" class, focusing on the disciple's spiritual and character maturity, offering practical steps for a strong Christian life. In the second half, the focus turns to the inner qualities that define a Christian disciple, moving beyond just outward actions to a rooted life in Christ, emphasizing personal transformation, reliance on God, and purposeful living in the church and world.

*Completion of DFD 1 and DFD 2—last quarter, previously, or individually—are prerequisites for taking this class.*

Facilitator: David Chung/David Ludens  
Level: Intermediate & Advanced

## TEACHING TEAM

**JOHN BOMAR** [johnmarkbomar@hotmail.com] is a former pastor and a long-time educator (teacher, counselor, and principal). He has focused on leadership development over the past ten years and is a John Maxwell Team certified leadership speaker, trainer, and coach with a passion for developing leaders who demonstrate humility, collaboration, and a focus on empowering others to align with a shared goal. John leads the GraceU leadership track.

**STEVE BROCK** [sbrock@brandwallop.com] has led branding initiatives and interactive workshops for many of the nation's leading ministries, including World Vision, Compassion, Focus on the Family, CRU, American Bible Society, and others. He is the author of several books, has taught graduate programs overseas, and is a long-time facilitator of Life Group leader training at GCC.

**DAVID CHUNG** [godcmi@gmail.com] has been a pastor and professor of Old Testament at Faith Evangelical College and Seminary in Tacoma, but fulfilling the Great Commission through global missions and evangelism has been the focus of his international ministry. We are privileged to have David's

leadership in teaching the fundamentals of the faith.

**TROY COSTELLO** [costello Troy@comcast.net] has served as a member and Group Leader in Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) for more than 20 years and currently serves as the Teaching Leader, teaching and training through in-depth Bible study, equipping and mentoring leaders to grow in their faith. Troy's background includes preparing and delivering Bible-centered teaching and developing leaders through encouragement, accountability, and structured training.

**WENDIE COSTELLO** [wendie.costello@gmail.com] brings 15 years of experience guiding others through faith-based learning and professional development. In addition to managing teams of real estate professionals and running her own business, she has held several teaching and leadership roles with Bible Study Fellowship and led children's ministries, with her involvement reflecting a deep commitment to biblical teaching and discipleship.

**NICHOLAS & JAMIE DREWER** [drewer90@gmail.com; jarowley2@gmail.com] have a heart for facilitating other young couples in developing their marriage relationships. Nicholas received a bachelor's

degree in Apologetics from Liberty University and is currently working on a master's degree in counseling from National University, and Jamie is an elementary grade teacher.

**LEE ESCOBAR** [leemymmentor@me.com] is a retired Army chaplain with an M.A. in theology and an M.Div from Church of God Theological Seminary. He is currently working on a D.Min and enrolled in the Institute for Church Leadership program at The Master's Seminary. Lee is an author, speaker, and entrepreneur with a passion to equip believers with the skills to read, understand, and apply God's Word with accuracy and confidence, ultimately fostering a deeper love for scripture and a stronger walk with Christ.

**MELANIE FREIBERG** [melfreiberg@hotmail.com] has developed and presented content and provided training throughout a long career in Human Resources. She is passionate about helping others grow and thrive in their faith, and her teaching style is to connect content with life-application.

**KIMO JOW** [kkjow@comcast.net] is a practicing veterinarian, but his passion is people and his focus is in developing disciplemakers. He has been involved in various ministries with The Navigators since college and is a long-time member at Grace who has held leadership roles in Men's Ministry, Life Groups, and on the Elder board. Kimo facilitates the Alongsider curriculum designed to train Christians how to become skilled disciplemakers.

**RICH LUCAS** [richlucas@kw.com] holds a bachelor's degree in history and literature from UW and a master's degree in Hebrew, Greek, and biblical literature from Western Seminary. He is a former pastor who has developed and taught a variety of church, Bible college, and seminary classes. He enjoys guiding others through the corridors of history, theology, and biblical literature in a way that is both fascinating and applicable to life in the 21st century.

**DAVE LUDENS** [david.ludens@gmail.com] has been involved in both the Design for Discipleship and Alongsiders programs. With interest in the interaction between theology and history, the Christian life, and preparing others to share their faith, he is a current Life Group leader and a former Sunday school teacher.

**CRAIG LUKER** [caluker@outlook.com] is a former chair of the GCC Elders who "teaches" technical content in his job. His teaching skills transfer to church ministry as he has led Alpha groups and Life Groups. Craig has a keen interest in apologetics.

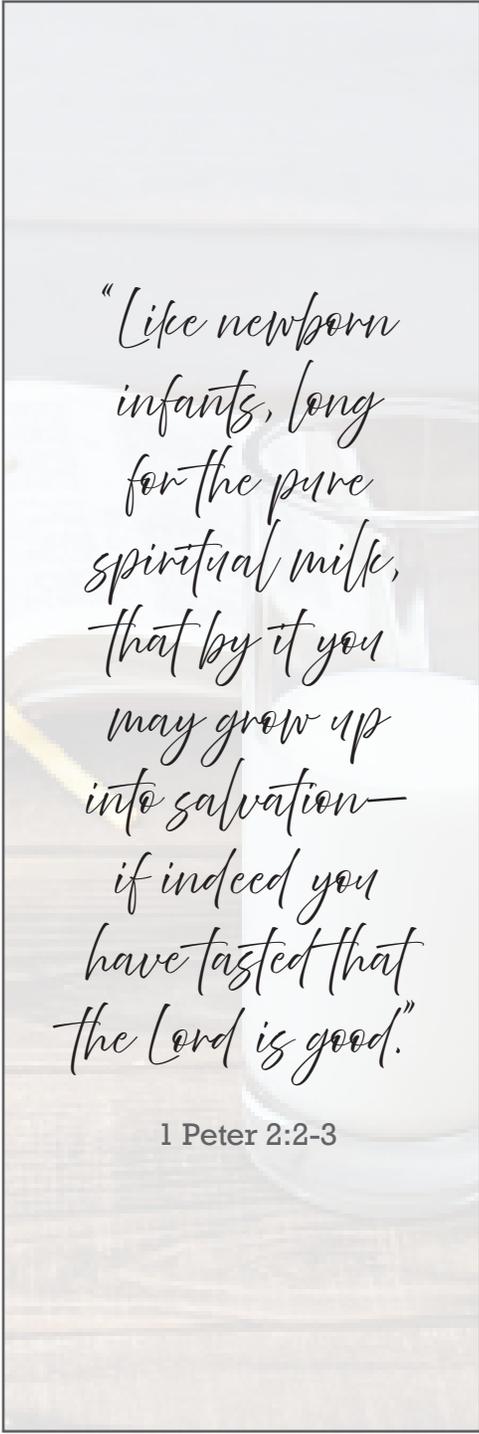
**KEN MCDUFF** [kmcduff@graceinauburn.com] is a former pastor who oversees the **Grace U** program as well as serving as Grace's Stewardship Director. He holds a master's degree from Grace Theological Seminary and has completed additional Th.M. level graduate studies at Talbot School of Theology. He is author of *Outside the Camp: A Former Pastor Looks at the Church from a Distance*. His teaching reflects his deep interest in theology and church history.

**DAVE SHIRLEY** [dave98042@hotmail.com] has a love for the Word of God and for helping seekers and new believers establish a firm Christian foundation in a world that questions and even attacks faith. He has taught 61 books of the Bible, and multiple topics through 35 years with Precept Ministries, has led Sunday school classes, and small groups at church and at work. Dave has been called to teach multiple classes on technical subjects and safety in his 40 years at Boeing. He served several times as President of "Good News At Work," the association of employee Bible studies and classes at Boeing in the Puget Sound, and served as an elder at Grace.

**GARY WEIMAN** [gweiman@graceinauburn.com] leads Grace's International Partners ministry. Professionally, he trained sales people for 30 years, but he has extensive background in teaching and organizing classes related to his passion for missions and teaching through the books of the Bible.

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For general questions, email [graceu@graceinauburn.com](mailto:graceu@graceinauburn.com). To address any questions you have about specific class content or requirements, contact the teacher or facilitator via email listed with their bio above.



*"Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good."*

1 Peter 2:2-3

Does  
Grace U  
negate  
the need  
to join  
a Life  
Group?

**No, Grace U is meant to complement rather than compete with involvement in a Life Group—to support rather than to supplant.**

Life Groups are at the core of our church family. Meeting weekly in homes, at the church, or places around our community, Life Groups are a gathering of people in all walks of life who simply do life together and support one another in growing as followers of Jesus. We form community, we study God's Scripture, and we live a life of outreach and prayer together.

Grace U classes are intended to add to the Life Group experience by providing broader and deeper learning. While studying Scripture is a component of our Life Groups, the focus is also on building supportive relationships. Grace U classes focus more on developing spiritual maturity through a deeper understanding of the Bible ... on living out the Christian life where you live, learn, work, or play ... on being equipped to serve and to lead in the body of Christ, or to effectively reach out to your neighbors with the vital message of salvation.

One idea is for your entire Life Group to attend a class together, leading to further discussion and application in your Life Group during the week!



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