



Grace  
Fellowship

# KNOWING GOD

A  
STUDY  
OF THE  
BOOK OF EZEKIEL

KNOWING

GOD'S CALL

ON YOUR LIFE

EZEKIEL 2-3

[WhatIsGrace.org](http://WhatIsGrace.org)

## Send Your Holy Spirit now for Christ's sake to...

A

CHURCH

THAT

PRAYS

- Pray for a prayer request from last week.
- Our Fourth Grade, our small group led by Donna Sweet, and our pastor Jeff Dietz.
- All first responders serving on front lines against COVID.
- Our church service, Simple Grace.
- Sister church, Living Word Lutheran Church and Pastor Emmanuel Jackson.
- The Makas\*ar of Indonesia.

**We ask all this for the glory of Your name.**

Please pray for this request shared during last week's worship service.

**Pray for  
others**

# **Knowing God**

## **“Knowing God’s Call on Your Life” – Ezekiel 2-3**

### **September 26, 2021**

### **Our Sermon Series**

<b>KNOWING GOD</b>				
<i>A Study of the Book of Ezekiel</i>				
<b>Theme</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Message Title</b>	<b>Text</b>	<b>Date</b>
Judah's Fall	Before the Siege	Knowing God	Ezekiel 1	Sept 19
		Knowing God's Call on Your Life	Ezekiel 2-3	Sept 26
		Knowing How God Speaks	Ezekiel 4-5	Oct 3
		Knowing God's Boundaries	Ezekiel 6-11	Oct 10
		Knowing God's Discipline	Ezekiel 12-17	Oct 17
		Knowing God's Heart	Ezekiel 18-22	Oct 24
		Knowing Our Unfaithfulness	Ezekiel 23-24	Oct 31
Judah's Foes	During the Siege	Knowing Our Pride	Ezekiel 25-32	Nov 7
Judah's Future	After the Siege	Knowing the Good Shepherd	Ezekiel 33-34	Nov 14
		Knowing New Life	Ezekiel 35-36	Nov 21
		Knowing Revival	Ezekiel 37	Nov 28
		Knowing the End	Ezekiel 38-39	Dec 5
		Knowing the Future	Ezekiel 40-48	Dec 12

### **Background Information**

- The theme of the book of Ezekiel is knowing God: 68 times God says through Ezekiel “they shall know that I am the Lord.”
- We know God through encounters with Him (Chap 1-3), through consequences for our disobedience (Chap 4-32), and through restoration and salvation (Chap 33-48).
- The Jewish people are in exile in Babylon (modern day Iraq) because of their repeated disobedience to the Lord (2 Kings 24). The Year is 593 B.C. Ezekiel is a 30-year-old priest in exile in Babylon.
- While in Babylon, Ezekiel has an encounter with the Presence of God that changes his life and gives direction to his life ministry (1:1,28).

### **What is a Calling?**

- Webster’s Dictionary – calling (*n.*): a strong inner impulse toward a particular course of action especially when accompanied by conviction of divine influence.
- Angie Ward: “Calling is a God-given conviction about your life’s direction.”
- Ezekiel 1-3 is a description of Ezekiel’s calling.

## Six Aspects of Your Calling (Ezekiel 2-3)

### 1. \_\_\_\_\_ – Calling comes from hearing the voice of God (1:28-2:5)

- The term “calling” literally means that Someone is calling to you (speaking to you). Hearing a calling requires listening.
- Ezekiel’s calling was very dramatic (a vision of the flying throne-chariot of God’s glory followed by the audible voice of God). Most people’s calling stories are not that dramatic.
- Seven Ways God Speaks to His People in New Testament Times:
  - (1) Through Scripture (2 Timothy 3:16-17; Acts 1:20; 2:17-21)
  - (2) Through promptings (Acts 8:29)
  - (3) Through circumstances (Acts 5:1-11; 10:44-48; 16:6-7)
  - (4) Through people (Acts 9:26-28; 11:27-30; 13:1-3; 18:24-27; 21:10-11; 2 Samuel 12)
  - (5) Through angels (Acts 5:19-20; 8:26; 12:5-11; 27:23-24)
  - (6) Through an audible voice (Acts 9:1-9; 23:11)
  - (7) Through dreams and visions (Acts 2:17-21; 9:10,12; 10:3-19; 16:9-10; 18:9)
- **Psalm 46:10** – *Be still and know that I am God.*
- Os Guinness: “First and foremost we are called to Someone (God), not to something (such as motherhood, politics, or teaching) or to somewhere (such as the inner city or Outer Mongolia).”
- **Application #1** – As a lifestyle, I will regularly seek to be still before the Lord, seek Him first and foremost, and listen for His direction for my life. I will read His Word regularly with a listening ear, and I will also seek to hear the Lord through other people, circumstances, promptings, and visions (but always confirmed by God’s Word).

### 2. \_\_\_\_\_ – We must choose to not be afraid to pursue our calling (2:6-7; 3:9)

- Four times Ezekiel is told to “fear not” (2:6.6.6; 3:9)
- The rest of the book of Ezekiel contains a lot of very difficult messages for Ezekiel to deliver to the exiled Jewish people. Ezekiel will need to repeatedly remember his calling and be brave (not afraid) in order to fulfill his calling.
- Rick Warren: “It’s interesting to note that there are 365 verses in the Bible that say, ‘Fear not.’ God provided us with one ‘Fear not’ message for every day of the year!”
- **Mark 5:36** (LB) – *Don’t be afraid. Just trust Me.*
- **Application #2** – What aspects of my calling tempt me to be afraid and to not fulfill my calling? Today, I choose to trust God with those fears and to march forward in faith and obedience anyway.

3. \_\_\_\_\_ – We are all called to share God’s Word with others. As we do so, we must be sure to receive and digest and obey God’s Word for ourselves first (2:8-3:3,10)
- *Jeremiah 15:16* – Your words were found, and I ate them, and Your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart.
  - The Apostle John had a similar experience in Revelation 10:8-11
  - Daniel Block: “Herein lies the key to the prophet’s authority: he carries in his own body the word of God.”
  - John Owens: “No one preaches his sermon well to others if he does not first preach it to his own heart.”
  - John Piper: “The battle against despondency is a battle to believe the promises of God. And that belief in God’s future grace comes by hearing the Word. And so preaching to ourselves the word of God is at the heart of the battle.”
  - Application #3 – What is my plan for internalizing the Word of God?
    - Engaging a Bible reading plan (Quiet Time Journal)
    - Speaking the Word to my own heart (Psalm 42:11)
    - Memorizing Scripture  
[www.navigators.org/resource/topical-memory-system](http://www.navigators.org/resource/topical-memory-system)
    - Obeying God’s Word
    - Sharing God’s Word with others.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ – Just because God calls us to something doesn’t mean that it’s going to be easy and smooth and without difficulties. God calls us to be steadfast in our calling regardless of the difficulties (3:4-15)
- Ezekiel’s assignment was very, very difficult. God was calling Ezekiel to be as stubborn in delivering God’s message as the people were stubborn in disobeying it.
  - Sandy Adams: “Sanctified stubbornness is called steadfastness.”
  - *Galatians 6:9* – Let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.
  - Application #4 – With God’s help and power, I will persevere in being steadfast to God’s calling on my life regardless of difficulties or rejections!
5. \_\_\_\_\_ – God has called all of us to be watchmen on our walls (3:16-21)
- Watchmen were guards responsible for protecting towns from surprise enemy attacks and other potential dangers. Ancient Israelite cities often stationed watchmen on high walls or in watchtowers. Their job was to keep watch and warn the townspeople of impending threats.

- Why wouldn't a watchman warn the townspeople of an impending danger? Asleep. Preoccupied with something else (that wasn't his true duty). Apathy. Indifference. Fear.
- Application #5a – We are responsible for the people who live within our walls (our sphere of influence... like our family, neighbors, coworkers, school mates, community). There is danger lurking outside the walls, and we need to sound the alarm.
  - ❑ The danger of eternity separated from God in Hell.
  - ❑ The danger of a worldly culture luring us and our children away from the Lord.
- Application #5b – Next Sunday (Oct 3), Grace Fellowship will add two new people groups to our sphere of influence (within our walls) by formally adopting the Azeri and the Afar peoples:

We the people of Grace Fellowship Church adopt the Afar of Ethiopia and the Azeri of Azerbaijan, and we commit to pray and give and go and learn and serve so that they might hear the Good News of Jesus Christ and become co-heirs with us of God's Kingdom.

Three things to prepare for next week:

1. Pray about signing the above statement next Sunday with other members and regular attenders of your church.
2. Go online to Grace Fellowship's website and read up on the Afar and Azeri so that you are making an informed adoption. Info at [WhatIsGrace.org/Missions](http://WhatIsGrace.org/Missions)
3. Be sure to dive into the entire experience next Sunday (sounds, tastes, sights in an experiential tour after each service). If you have kids, grab them after the service and come back and take them through the experiential tour.

## 6. \_\_\_\_\_ – Many times God will give us a parable or prophetic word associated with our calling (3:22-27)

- In the same way that Jesus used parables, God had Ezekiel perform prophetic acts as one way of communicating God's message.
- One of God's judgments on a nation is the lack of a prophet or the lack of a Word from the Lord. For example, the 400 years of silence (also known as the Intertestamental Period) was part of God's judgment. The binding and muteness of Ezekiel (3:25-28) is a prophetic picture of judgmental silence.
- Application #6 – Has God given you a picture associated with your calling that you can cling to when times get difficult?



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THAT

GROWS

Try a 10-week fall Small Group walking through the story of the early church in the Book of Acts.

Acts may have been written two thousand years ago, but **God is calling us** to be a part of that story today.

New groups begin in October – Locations vary

One of our lifetime goals:  
2500 Small Groups



Learn more and register at  
[WhatIsGrace.org/Adults](https://www.WhatIsGrace.org/Adults)



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REACHES

**Reach** out to international friends in our area, helping them practice their English! Read the book of Luke with them for 45 minutes each week in a one-on-one setting.

Learn more and register at  
[WhatIsGrace.org/Missions](https://www.WhatIsGrace.org/Missions)



Coming Up:

First Step Oct. 10

Immersion Baptisms Oct. 10

Baby Dedications Oct. 17

# Adult Ministries

## Discipleship

Try a 10-week fall **Small Group walking through the story of the early church in the Book of Acts**. It may have been written two thousand years ago, but God is calling us to be a part of that story today. New groups begin in October—Locations vary.

Contact [gracegroups@WhatsIsGrace.org](mailto:gracegroups@WhatsIsGrace.org) for more information.

## Care

### Fall Registration For Care Ministry:

**DivorceCare**—Encouragement, hope and healing for those dealing with divorce.

**Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University**  
Learn God's way of handling your finances.

**GriefShare**—Support and healing for those dealing with the passing of a loved one.

**Marriage Matters**—Renew and strengthen your marriage.

**Struggling with an Addiction**—If you're caught in any type of addiction, contact Barry Morton at [bmorton@WhatsIsGrace.org](mailto:bmorton@WhatsIsGrace.org).

Visit [WhatsIsGrace.org/Care](http://WhatsIsGrace.org/Care), or call Care Ministry at 281-646-1903 for more info and registration.

**Need confidential care? Contact Care Pastor Cindi Lomax at [clomax@WhatsIsGrace.org](mailto:clomax@WhatsIsGrace.org).**

## Missions

**25 Blessings:** Small Groups, take on the Double Dog Dare (DDD) challenge through October to Serve Our Seniors! More information at [WhatsIsGrace.org/Missions](http://WhatsIsGrace.org/Missions).

**UPG Adoption Sunday is October 3!** We're adopting two new unreached people groups! Save the date for this family friendly celebration!

**Hurricane Ida:** Relief teams are forming and there are opportunities to volunteer. Contact [churchinaction@WhatsIsGrace.org](mailto:churchinaction@WhatsIsGrace.org) to learn how you can help.

## Prayer

**Prayer Course 101:** Sept. 20—Nov. 1 from 6-7:30pm. The course will provide Biblical and experiential teaching on prayer. Register at [WhatsIsGrace.org/prayer](http://WhatsIsGrace.org/prayer).

**Healing Prayer:** Today from 10:30—12:30pm. The members of the Freedom and Healing ministry partner with God to see a person become free from disease and pain. No appointments are needed.

**The Gathering:** Oct. 4 from 6—8 pm inside The Great Southwest Prayer Center and online. Come and join in with our live worship and prayer asking The Lord to build His house of prayer for all nations. All are welcome.

**Need Prayer? Call 281.398.2GOD or go to [WhatsIsGrace.org/prayer-wall](http://WhatsIsGrace.org/prayer-wall).**

# Kids Ministry

**Kids 101 Today from 12:30-2:30pm:** This class is highly recommended prior to your child's baptism. It's free and lunch is provided! Register online at [WhatsIsGrace.org/Kids](http://WhatsIsGrace.org/Kids).

## Student Ministry

**Join a Student Ministry Small Group!** Small groups are one of the best ways for students to connect with friends and grow in their relationship with God. Check out all of the student small groups offered at [WhatsIsGrace.org/Student](http://WhatsIsGrace.org/Student).

## Get Connected

**New to Grace? Welcome!** Come by the Welcome Center in the Lobby to pick up a gift we have for you. We would love to say, "hello" and answer any questions you might have.

**Starting Steps:** Are you new to Grace Fellowship or maybe you've been here a while and want to take your next step? Starting Steps are sessions created to help you make a connection and engage you in the life of Grace Fellowship. First Step is Oct. 10, Community Step is Oct. 17 and Joining Step is Oct. 24. Learn more at [WhatsIsGrace.org/Connection](http://WhatsIsGrace.org/Connection).

## Get Involved

**Coffee Bar Volunteers:** Help brew and serve coffee on the Worship Center Porch! Contact Hayley at 281-646-1903, X.102 for more info.

**Student Ministry Volunteers:** make a lasting impact in the lives of students! Join us in pouring into the next generation of believers! Email Karen for more info about becoming a volunteer at [kcarter@WhatsIsGrace.org](mailto:kcarter@WhatsIsGrace.org).

**Worship Serving Opportunities:** Interested in serving behind the scenes with live production of Sunday morning services? We have opportunities for video camera, audio, lighting and more! To find out more, email Kerri at [worship@whatisgrace.org](mailto:worship@whatisgrace.org).

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