

GRACE INSIDER

SEPTEMBER 2023



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MOMSnexT
a new group for
moms of school-aged kids
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membership class

september 17 • 10:15–11:30am

register at graceb3.org/events



UPCOMING EVENTS IN September

Learn more and/or sign up
for events by tapping
on the events or visit
graceb3.org/events

10th



10th



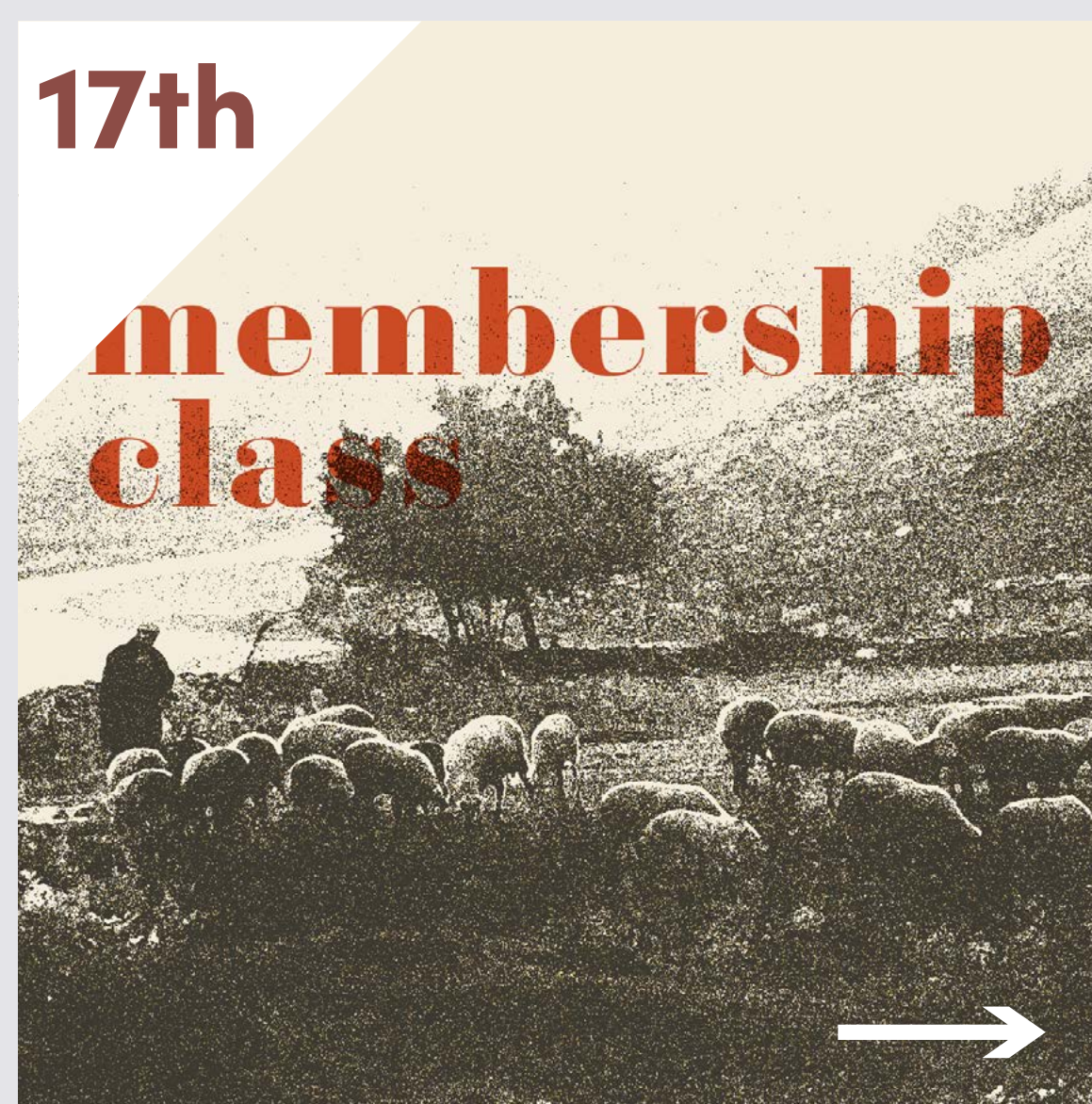
12th



16th



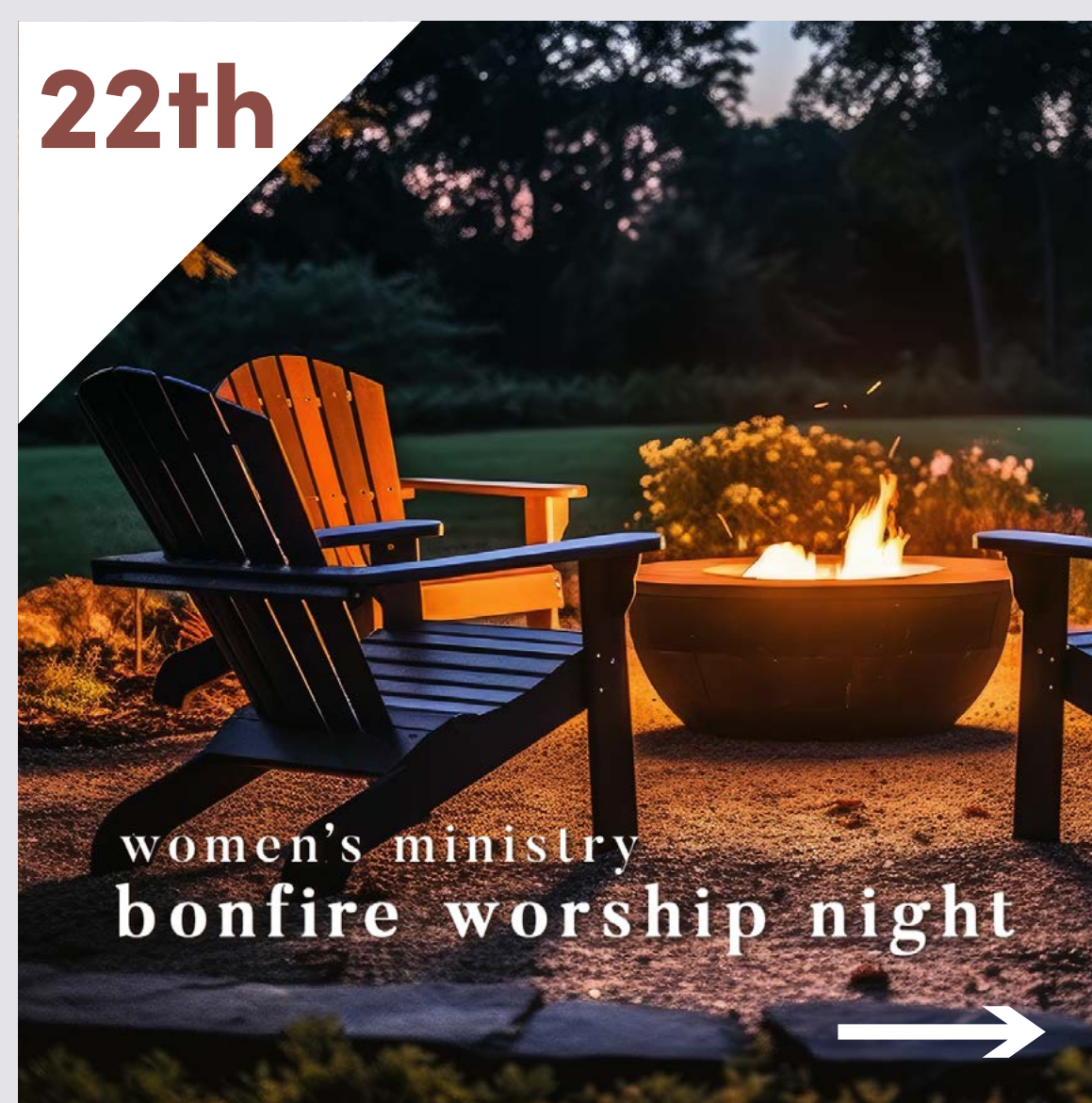
17th



17th



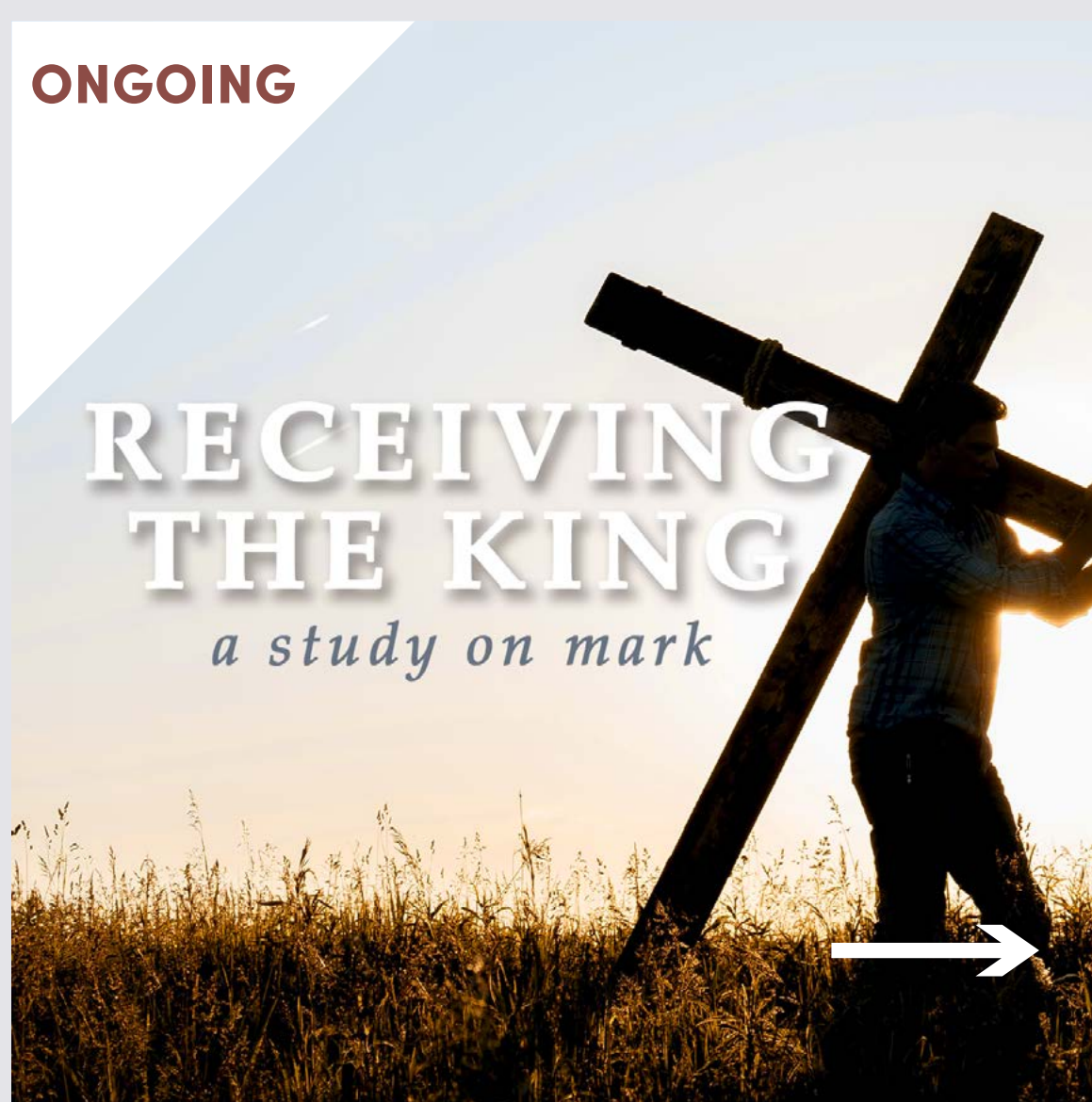
22th




24th



ONGOING





And let us consider how to stir
up one another to love and
good works, not neglecting to
meet together, as is the habit
of some, but encouraging one
another, and all the more as
you see the Day drawing near.
Hebrews 10:24-25

**Find your people by joining
a Community Group today.**



MOPS launching new MOMSnex group this Fall

By Kat George & Tiana Vance

We are so excited to share about a new MOPS-related group starting this fall at Grace. **MOMSnex** is a new meet-up specifically for mothers of school-age kids by MOPS International.

Just as MOPS serves as an outreach ministry focusing on the unique needs of mothers of preschoolers, similarly MOMSnex seeks to serve mothers of school-age children. While not an exclusive alumni club for MOPS moms, MOMSnex certainly appeals to MOPS graduates who want to continue to become the best moms they can be and influence others throughout a new phase of mothering. By building a hospitable community and providing growth opportunities, MOMSnex seeks to encourage mothers to find and share Jesus' renewing hope.

We are thrilled that a group of ladies, including Laura Gilbaugh, Lori Leeman, Graef Weaver, and Jodi Chimenti, have taken on the task of facilitating this group.

If you are a mom with school-age kiddos, and you are looking for a place to find encouragement and build quality relationships, this may be the group for you.

MOMSnexT will meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, starting on September 12, from 6:30-8pm, through April 2024.

Learn more about MOMSnexT at graceb3.org/events.

Have a question about MOMSnexT? Email Lori Leeman at Lorireschly@gmail.com. 🌿



A photograph of two women wearing hijabs, laughing heartily on a city street. The woman on the left is looking upwards, while the woman on the right is looking towards her. They are standing in front of a brick building. The background shows a street with trees and other buildings. The image has a warm, golden-hour lighting.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

BIBLICAL SOUL CARE

WEEKEND EDITION

9.16 | 8AM - 4:30PM

10.21 • 11.18 | 8:30AM - 4:30PM

Free to attend*

** Bring your own lunch or pay \$35 to have lunch catered at all three meetings.*

This class is for everyone who has ever wondered how to help someone who is hurting, losing hope, or struggling with deep set sin (and it's for everyone that has been there, too). Our stance is that everyone gives counsel (or what we more frequently call advice) and that, as Jesus' people, we are called to give biblical answers to life's questions and problems. This class will get you off to a roaring start on what a biblical answer is to some of the sticky things that life throws our way.



BACKYARD BiBLE CLUB

recap

*By Children's Ministry
Lead Coordinator
Natasha Miller*

We were blessed to have five sites host Backyard Bible Club (BBC) this year. Each site required many volunteers, and the body of Christ stepped up to fill those roles. I'd like to highlight one site that had the privilege of being led by approximately 24 youth and college students. It was great to see that **many who served had previously experienced the transformative power of BBC themselves.**

This BBC aimed to equip the next generation to become the hands and feet of Christ and served as a platform for witnessing the true power of community and faith. Throughout the week, **the participants embraced their roles, demonstrating the love, compassion, and service that exemplify Jesus' teachings.** Engaging in various activities and discussions, these young individuals truly embodied the spirit of unity and the importance of ministering to others.

Central to the BBC's mission was the desire to equip the younger generation to carry forward the work we are called to do by proclaiming the gospel. The club aimed to **empower**

these young individuals to impact their communities positively by providing them with a nurturing environment, necessary resources, and practical teachings. Their passion and commitment to making a difference was inspiring.

One verse that encapsulates the spirit of this BBC is found in 1 Timothy 4:12 (NIV), *"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, and in purity."* This passage reaffirms the importance of recognizing the potential and capabilities of young individuals in fulfilling God's purpose.

Overall, this year's Backyard Bible Clubs provided a genuinely amazing experience that not only equipped the next generation but also showcased the beauty of the body of Christ in action. The dedication and passion displayed by all of the youth and adult volunteers across all sites were truly inspiring, reminding us that God wants to use each of us. Please join us in praying for the attendees and their families. Pray they would come to know Jesus personally and become part of a regular biblical community. 🌿



The Backyard Bible Club led by students from Grace Student Ministry.

RECEIVING THE KING

a study on mark

pick up your copy
in the office today or
[download the study here.](#)



LESSONS FROM GUATEMALA

By Executive Pastor Josh Haveman

THE IDEA OF A SHORT-TERM MISSION TRIP SOUNDS SILLY TO ME. In what other scenario would you choose to join 15 people who you may not know, travel to a faraway place, rely on people you've never met to transport and house and feed you, do hard work you have no skill in, and serve people who can't repay you, all while surrounding yourself with foreign culture and language? If any person were to try to do this apart from the Lord, we would call them foolish. And truly, with mankind alone, this would have been impossible.

But *“God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God”* (Romans 8:28) and keep his commandments:

- **God brought together** the right 15 people for this trip.
- **God prepared** our in-country missionary partners and blessed them with knowledge and resources and skills.
- **God gave** us stamina and protection for hard work.
- **God opened** our hearts and eyes to see what he sees in the people we served.
- **God broke down** language and cultural barriers so that we were able to connect with those who didn't use the words we used.

We love the Lord because he first loved us. He calls us to love as he loves. He laid his life down for us, and **during that week, he showed us a little bit of what it looks like to lay down our lives for others.**



This is discipleship: doing what we see our Savior doing, and Jesus said that he didn't come to be served but to seek, serve, and save. For some people, following Jesus in this way can look like going on a short-term mission trip. As we plan future trips to Guatemala from Grace, please prayerfully consider whether God is calling you to follow Jesus in this way. Maybe the trip you take won't be to Guatemala. **Serving as Jesus served is something you can do with your neighbors across the street, across the country, or across the world. But whether it is close to home or far away, Jesus does want you to serve as he served, and our Guatemala trips are an excellent opportunity.**

Anyone who sets out to serve Jesus will face many challenges. Our team experienced travel challenges with flight delays and washed-out bridges. We had language barriers, skill gaps, and teamwork challenges. Some people felt sick, were overtired or struggled with finding any food that sounded appealing... Being a disciple of Jesus is supposed to look like this, though. Not because Jesus wants us to have hardship. Rather, his kingdom is not of this world, and so every time we serve him instead of the world, we should expect this world to push back.

Guatemalan society is pushing back against the kingdom of God. There is corruption in the political system. Poor people experience neglect and abuse. Young women get pregnant in their teens with no hope for support from the men who fathered their children. Education and even clean water are not accessible to everyone. Life is not what God wants it to be for his people. The contrast is strong, so it can be easy to see how offering Christ's love is a way of offering real hope to people in need.



baptism class

Our two-part baptism class is for anyone who wants to learn about baptism and/or pursue being baptized at Grace. This class is a requirement to be baptized at Grace.

[Register here](#)

*Sept 24 & Oct 1
8:30am*

Baptism is an outward sign of an inward work of God in man.

Don't be deceived, though. Every man-made culture is pushing back against the kingdom of God. It isn't just a Guatemala thing. It isn't just an American thing. Now that our team is back in the U.S., we will each have to choose either to mature based on the lessons we learned on the trip or to ease back into the comfort of accepting our culture's lies. In the U.S. it is easy to believe that all things are possible just because we want them. But that isn't true. Only when we love and obey God are all things possible. And even then, it is only God's things – his kingdom's purposes – which he is working to achieve. If we want all things to work out for good, we must to serve him instead of serving ourselves.

Jesus said that we will always have the poor with us. This is a sad part of our reality as we wait for Christ to return. We can serve them whenever we choose. And I pray that as you've been reading about this most recent Grace Community Church trip to Guatemala, you've considered how God is calling you to serve the poor and needy worldwide. And even more important than serving the poor is loving Jesus. Maybe reading about this Guatemala trip, you've felt convinced that you never want to serve on a short-term mission trip, ever! That's fine, as long as you are loving the King. He may not want you overseas. He might want you in your front yard talking to your neighbor or in your kitchen sharing the gospel with your kids. But he does want you. He wants you to love him as he loved you and laid down his life for you. Our Guatemala team got to experience a little bit of that this summer. Pray that God shows you how he would have you experience that discipleship relationship, too. Guatemala may or may not be calling you, but Jesus definitely is. 🌿



THRIVE

CLASSES START SEPT 17

[register here by 9.15](#)

