

Alone For The Holidays

The holiday season is often filled with joy, laughter, family, and a time of good cheer. But for many, it can be the loneliest time of the year. Whether it is the first Christmas with an empty chair at the table, or memories of things you use to do during the holidays with loved ones who are now gone, or the absence of companionship, all can make this time of year very heavy for many. Loneliness at Christmas is real. So, if I find myself alone, what can I do to make it through the holidays? How can I overcome my loneliness? Does God care?

Christmas is a day the religious world celebrates the birth of Christ. In Matthew's gospel account, we are told that it was prophesied that Jesus would be called Immanuel (Matthew 1.23). The name Immanuel means *"God with us."* Realizing God is with us can help us during our period of solitude. Even as we sit in silence, we can take comfort in knowing that we are never truly alone. Jesus endured tremendous suffering so we could be in a relationship with God. Because of that relationship, God whispers, *"You are seen. You are loved. You are not forgotten. You are not alone."* The sweet psalmist of Israel said, ***"The LORD is near to the broken-hearted and saves the crushed in spirit" (Psalm 34.18).*** Loneliness may seem to overwhelm us, but it cannot separate us from the nearness of God. Even when human company is scarce, the incarnation declares that we are never truly alone.

Jesus entered a world of rejection and suffering so that we could know the companionship of God Himself. The manger whispers: *"God has come." "I am here for you." "You are greatly loved."* Loneliness may press us, but it cannot separate us from the love and presence of God. In our solitude, we need to remember that our worth is not measured by how many people surround us, but by the love of the One who created us. Our self-worth is in the fact that we are children of God and our Father values us greatly.



Loneliness may cause a hole in the heart, but spiritually, it could be an opportune time to strengthen our relationship with our Father in heaven. In the isolation of your home, in the quietness of the moment, we can honestly pour out your heart to God. The apostle Peter tells us, ***"For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their prayer" (1 Peter 3.12).*** God sees us in our solemnity and hears us when we call.

Sometimes, the best antidote to being alone is to reach out to others. Pick up your phone and call someone you love. Invite someone out for a meal or have them in your home to enjoy time together. Attend all worship services and activities of the congregation. God design the church family to be there to encourage you, support you, and to help you on your journey into the eternal presence of God. Yes, the holidays may be hard to endure, but one day, heaven will be our home, and we will rejoice and be filled with joy forevermore.

Gary

Why Do I Need God's Love?

Psalm 119.41

- 1) Have you ever craved for someone to love you?
- 2) We thrive on love and go wherever it may be found.
- 3) Do we realize the blessing of God's love?

I Need God's Love Because...

I) _____ **It, I Feel...**

- A) _____.
 - 1) Illustration: Wandering without the love of God.
 - 2) Jesus said... (John 10.14, 27).
- B) _____.
 - 1) There is a _____ within me.
 - 2) Prodigal son (Luke 15).
- C) _____.
 - 1) The Lord loves you as you are, not as you wish to be.
 - 2) God would love me more if....
- D) _____.
 - 1) Fear grips us when we face uncertainly, loss, death.
 - 2) God, where are you when...?
- E) _____.
 - 1) Loneliness is one of the deepest pains of the human heart.
 - 2) God said... (Genesis 2.18).

II) _____ **Love Is** _____.

- A) Human love often comes with conditions.
- B) What happens when we fail, disappoint, or fall short?
- C) Is God's love that way (Romans 5.8)?

III) **God's Love Heals My** _____.

- A) Every one of us carries wounds—regret, shame, rejection, fear.
- B) Why do I feel unloved?
- C) Leah (Genesis 29.31-35; Psalm 34.18).

IV) **God's Love Gives Me My** _____.

- A) We tend to define ourselves by what we do, what we own, what others say about us.
- B) Our true identity rests in the fact that we are _____ of _____
(I John 3.1).

V) **God's Love Sets Me** _____.

- A) Many live enslaved to sin, fear, guilt, what others say about them.
- B) Jesus said, "So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed" (John 8.36).

Conclusion: Will you let God's love be the answer to your deepest need this day?

C O N N E C T I O N

C Good morning church family! This week I saw a news story that really inspired me, and I want to share some thoughts about it with you. Here is the headline: *“Oklahoma City High School Team Returns Championship Title After Scoring Error.”*

R
N
E
R The Academy of Christian Studies had won its first girls’ basketball title ever on a last second buzzer beater. But the head coach had a “sinking feeling” that something wasn’t right. That night, he watched the game video and discovered a scoring error. The other team was not credited for a basket on the scoreboard that would have given them a 1-point victory. He told his team of the error, and they unanimously voted to appeal their own victory. The appeal was denied, because once the game ended and the score officially posted, it could not be changed. The team decided to give the championship trophy to the other school and renounce all claims to the title. Finally, the league agreed to make it official. Doing the “right thing” cost these girls something they had dreamed of, worked for, sweated and bled for—a championship. But something they were not willing to pay for it with was their integrity.

“What a great example of sportsmanship” many news stories claimed, and it was. But what about an even greater example of Christ-like values? It got me to thinking, “what a teachable moment!” I wonder if any other coaches shared this story with their teams and talked about the value of integrity and personal honor over external glory?

Every day, God places small opportunities in front of us—moments that may seem ordinary on the surface, yet carry the potential to shape a heart, strengthen a faith, or plant a seed of spiritual growth. These “teachable moments” rarely arrive on a schedule. They often appear in the middle of everyday life: a news story such as this, something we see or hear during a car ride with our children, something in nature, or even when we ourselves have stumbled and how we chose to respond.

Jesus made use of teachable moments constantly. He pointed to birds, flowers, coins, mustard seeds, storms, and passing crowds—using whatever was at hand to connect earthly moments to heavenly truth. He wasn’t waiting for a classroom; He made the moment a classroom. As disciples, we can do the same. Here are some ideas to help us take advantage of teachable moments.

1. *Be Present Enough to Notice* - Unplug, heads up, eyes and ears open!
2. *Connect the Moment to God’s Truth* - Turn ordinary moments into spiritual ones.
3. *Share Your Faith Naturally* - You don’t need a prepared speech, just be honest.
4. *Embrace Imperfect Opportunities* - You may feel unprepared, but God often works through our simple efforts.
5. *Model the Gospel in Real Time* - Our example is often the most powerful classroom of all.

Every moment holds potential. Look for opportunities this week to turn the ordinary into the eternal. You’ll be blessed!

SHEPHERDS

| | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| Greg Ball Russ | 214-801-7375 |
| Bartee | 817-938-5825 |
| Dan Kille | 817-793-7493 |
| Chuck Meyer | 682-553-5444 |
| *Ross Tomlinson | 682-429-1983 |
| John Walton | 817-441-0000 |

*Shepherd of the month

MINISTERS

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| Gary Williams: Pulpit Minister | 662-321-3208 |
| Les Keele: Associate Minister | 817-808-0566 |
| James Bowie: Youth Minister | 817-944-4492 |

LAOTIAN MINISTRY

| | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| John Boudtaroth | 817-891-2132 |
|-----------------|--------------|

DEACONS

| | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| Jonathan Bartee | 817-889-2686 |
| David Birdow | 972-310-1143 |
| James Bowie | 817-944-4492 |
| Zach Brookshire | 817-296-9918 |
| Brandon Duncan | 903-603-1059 |
| Jay Garner | 817-205-2070 |
| Ben Meyer | 817-673-8557 |
| Robert Scott | 817-246-0911 |
| Matt Sloan | 405-471-3404 |
| Steve Taylor | 817-291-2065 |
| Buck Thomas | 817-733-2620 |
| Arthur Torrez | 817-721-2726 |

MORNING WORSHIP (10 AM)

Welcome - Layton Garner

Song Leader - Jonathan Bartee

Song - We're Marching To Zion

Song - I Know That My Redeemer Lives

Song - It Is Well With My Soul

Opening Prayer - Zach Brookshire

Scripture - Psalm 119:41

Song - Abide With Me

Lord's Supper - David Birdow

Prayer for Contribution - David Birdow

Song - Jesus Hold My Hand

Why Do I Need God's Love? - Gary Williams

Song - Trust and Obey

Announcements - Les Keele

Shepherd's Prayer & Dismissal - Ross Tomlinson

Our Code for Tithe.ly

Giving



QR Code for

Attendance



Attended Nursery: After communion, we have an attended nursery available for ages birth to 3 years and a mother's nursing room.

Single-side in-ear mono earbuds with personal receivers are available for those with hearing difficulties. Please see the sound booth at the back of the auditorium for assistance.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Monday, December 8

Esther 6-7; Psalm 9; Acts 27

Tuesday, December 9

Esther 8-10; Acts 28

Wednesday, December 10

Micah 1-4; Psalm 46; Revelation 1

Thursday, December 11

Micah 5-7; Psalm 130; Revelation 2

Friday, December 12

Isaiah 1-2; Psalm 146; Revelation 3

Saturday, December 13

Isaiah 3-6; Revelation 4; Psalm 93

Sunday, December 14

Isaiah 7-9; Revelation 5; Psalm 150

Last Week

| | | | |
|-------------|-----|--------------|--------------|
| Bible Class | 120 | Wednesday | 92 |
| Worship | 201 | Contribution | \$ 7,294.18 |
| PM Worship | 43 | Budget | \$ 14,216.88 |

Times of Assemblies

| | |
|-------------------------|----------|
| Bible Class: | 9:00 AM |
| Sunday Morning Worship: | 10:00 AM |
| Sunday Evening Worship: | 5:00 PM |
| Wednesday Evening: | 7:00 PM |

MEMBERS PRAYER LIST

| | | |
|----------------------------------|---|--|
| Leah Savage 11/24/2025 | Is healing at home from a blood clot and severely bruised heel. 2462 Indian Cover, Fort Worth, Texas 76108 | Healing |
| Danny Lee 12/04/2025 | Is in Harris Downtown, Harris Tower, Room 209, with pneumonia. If all goes well, he will go home today. 216 Hidden Valley, Aledo, Texas 76008 | Healing and recovery |
| Thonglouth Manyoun 11/30/2025 | In the passing of her husband, Thienxay, and her leg is bothering her with extreme pain. 5913 Lakeview Court, Fort Worth, Texas 76137 | Comfort and healing |
| Charles Stephan 12/03/2025 | Is in Harris Downtown, Harris Tower, Room 505, with salmonella. 633 South Kate Street, Fort Worth, Texas 76108 | Healing |
| Patricia Emerson | Cancer has returned. 6536 Wooddale, Fort Worth, Texas 76148 | Remission and healing |
| Kitti Davis 11/23/2025 | is suffering from Parkinson's. 812 Ala Drive, Fort Worth, Texas 76108 | Healing |
| Chuck King 11/23/2025 | Is suffering from shingles. 11621 Wind Creek Court, Aledo, Texas 76008 | Healing and return to good health |
| Shirley Bennett 10/16/2025 | Is recuperating at home under the care of her son and Minnie. No visitors at this time, please. 4018 Ridglea Country Club, #508, Fort Worth, Texas 76126 | Healing and return to good health |
| Lorenza Fernandez 10/22/2025 | Is taking care of Emilio and herself. 232 Lochness Drive, Benbrook, Texas 76126 | Strength to assist Emilio |
| Emilio Fernandez 10/22/2025 | Recovering at home from his falls. 232 Lochness Drive, Benbrook, Texas 76126 | Healing and strength to walk |
| Dan Pratt 09/25/2025 | Awaiting knee surgery. 10920 Hawkings Home Boulevard, Post Office Box 126437, Benbrook, Texas 76126 | Scheduling of surgery and success |
| Brandon Duncan 10/22/2025 | Will have a spinal infusion surgery on December 15 which will require an overnight stay in the hospital. 110 McAnear Street, Cleburne, Texas 76033 | Successful surgery and pain relief |
| Mary East 07/08/2025 | Is on hospice at the home of Mark and Karen Brahn and remains very weak. 101 Rambling Trail, Weatherford, Texas 76087 | Strength and comfort for Mary; guidance for Mark and Karen |
| Rob Donahue 11/14/2025 | Is in need of a job. 4259 Starlight Drive, Benbrook, Texas 76126 | That God provides the perfect place for him |
| Angie Kirkpatrick 11/14/2025 | Health issues. 1424 Yorkshire Street, Fort Worth, Texas 76134 | Doctors skill and knowledge to help |

FRIENDS, FAMILY, AND NEIGHBORS PRAYER REQUESTS

| NAME | REQUESTED BY | CIRCUMSTANCE | PRAYER |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|---|--|
| Jeff Holland, nephew of | Judy Birmingham | Bladder cancer has reoccurred. | The doctors to determine most beneficial chemo treatment 12/02/2025 |
| Paula, sister of | Patti Musselman | Cancer has returned and the chemo is not working. They are switching to a brand-new drug. | Doctors' skill and knowledge; new drug works and will eradicate the cancer 11/23/2025 |
| Nora, daughter of | Ross Tomlinson | The Family of Jim Clark, her father-in-law, removed life support on November 23 following a fall which left him unresponsive. | Peace and comfort for the family and safe travels for Nora and Xenia as they fly to Scranton, PA 11/23/2025 |
| Mother of | Robert Scott | Health issues. | Healing 11/19/2025 |
| Shane Grantham | Michael and Kitti Davis | Suffers from cancer. | Healing 11/23/2025 |
| Becky Stark, cousin's wife of, | Adam Powers | Emergency surgery to remove brain aneurysm. | Healing 11/23/2025 |
| Art Renfro, friend of | Betsy Strother | Suffered a stroke. | Complete healing 11/14/2025 |
| Brook, niece of | Misty Martinez | Will have rods placed in her hip this summer to correct dysplasia from birth. | For her to handle the pain while awaiting surgery 11/14/2025 |
| Tracie Jones, wife of | Russ Jones | Health issues. | Healing 11/14/2025 |
| Terry Stom, husband of | Pam Stom | Has returned home. | Healing 11/30/2025 |
| Dianne Snapp, daughter of | Tom and Paula Pauley | is undergoing neurological testing. | Results to direct the doctors' diagnosis. |

NEW BIRTHS

Jimmy and Katelynn Bolt welcomed Truett Daniel into this world on November 24, 2025.

The Family at Western Hills will be contributing a monetary gift to be used as needed by the family. If you would like to contribute, please see Dorothy Anderson or Sharon Pippin.

Congratulations to Kham Intharansy, great-grandmother, and Chris Intharansy, great-uncle, on the birth of Cameron Vatsana Johnson, 4 pounds and 14 ounces. The proud mother is Christian Johnson.

Congratulations to Steven and Rene Johnston, grandparents, and Dwight and Judy Blair, great-grandparents, as they welcomed Michael Craig Johnston to the family on December 4, 2025. He is 7 pounds and 5 ounces and 20.24 inches long.



SYMPATHY

Our sympathies are extended to Thonglouath Manyoun in the passing of her husband, Thienxay
Services will be on Saturday, December 13
2:30 PM
Mount Olivet

THANK YOU

Frankie would like to thank all who made the Thanksgiving meal a great success.

FOOD BANK STATISTICS

November
184 – Families Served
\$818.83 – Cost to WHCOC
7,452 pounds – Estimated Weight of Food

WINTER QUARTER CLASSES

Sunday Morning Classes

Auditorium: Jonathan Bartee: Apologetics For The Faithful Christian

Young Adult Class: Education Building: Riley Bowie: Habits of the Household: Books may be purchased in the office for \$7

Wednesday Night Class

Auditorium: Jay Garner: Philippians

TUESDAY MORNING CLASSES

The Ladies' Bible Class will meet **December 9** and **December 16**. On the **16**, they will have a holiday potluck meal.

The Men's Bible Class has dismissed for the remainder of the year.

Both classes will resume on **January 6, 2026**

AREAWIDE HYMN SINGING

LOCATION

At the Courthouse
100 E. Pearl Street
Granbury, Texas 76049

TIME AND DATE

December 6, 2025
5:30 - 7:30 PM

FOR MORE INFORMATION

817-776-1549

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Thursday, December 11, 7:00 AM
IHOP - Cherry Lane

DIRECTORY CHANGE

Bud and Betty Wilcox
The Landon At Lake Highlands
8501 Lullwater Drive
Apartment #1401
Dallas, Texas 75238

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

Western Hills High School will be making 350 food bags for area schools on December 12. We need to supply chicken, tuna, and / or cash to assist in this work.

HELP NEEDED!

We are providing a Christmas Luncheon for Leonard Leadership Academy Staff and Employees
on

Monday, December 15

You may assist us with the preparation of
Chili
Soup
Shredded Cheese
Sour Cream

You may bring your items to the building next **Sunday, December 14** or to the building **Monday morning by 10:00 AM**. Thank you so much!

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

THAI - LAO FELLOWSHIP
INVITES EVERYONE
DECEMBER 21
Sunday
10 AM - 12 PM

We warmly invite everyone to join us for a joyful Christmas celebration with a fun \$20 gift exchange, games, a shared meal, and a time of worshipping God together in a joyful and festive atmosphere. We will follow our regular worship schedule including a special a cappella choir presentation. After the worship service, we will share a fellowship meal together followed by a gift exchange.