

**FOR THE
KINGDOM.
FOR THE
KIDS.**

GRACE**KIDS**
VOLUNTEER MANUAL

TABLE *of* CONTENTS

3
WHAT IS GRACEKIDS

5
VOLUNTEER
EXPECTATIONS

8
SUNDAY SNAPSHOT

10
PRACTICES &
GUIDELINES

17
SAFETY & SECURITY
POLICIES

20
EMERGENCY
PROCEDURES

24
CURRICULUM

28
ABOUT GRACE

WHAT IS GRACEKIDS?

GRACEKIDS PRESCHOOL:

Infants–Young 5s

GRACEKIDS ELEMENTARY:

Grades K–3

“And all your children
shall be taught of the Lord,
and great shall be
the peace of your children.”

Isaiah 54:13

MISSION

Our mission is to have a partnership between the church and families as we lead children into a growing relationship with God and encourage them to share their faith with others.

PHILOSOPHY:

CHURCH+FAMILY=A GREATER IMPACT

BASIC TRUTHS

Belong

Kids will experience God's love through a welcoming community.

Believe

Kids will discover who God is by engaging with the Bible personally.

Become

Kids will experience following Jesus by learning to walk in His ways.

VOLUNTEER EXPECTATIONS

REQUIREMENTS

All volunteers must:

- Complete a Volunteer Application
- Complete a Background Check Authorization Form (if 18 years or older)
- Attend training events
- Teach based on the approved curriculum and in line with the Grace Community Church beliefs and values (see “About Grace”)

SUNDAY MORNINGS

On Sundays, we expect you to be fully committed to the kids and families you are serving.

Please do this by:

- Praying
- Being on time (arrive at 8:30AM and 10:30AM)
- Being fully present
- Smiling & using a friendly, gentle voice
- Interacting with the kids you are leading
- Making sure your area is safe, clean, and ready

PLANNING CENTER

Weekly schedules are sent out via email through Planning Center Services. On your scheduled weeks, please accept the invitation and view your curriculum in the note section of the app. If something comes up and you are not able to serve, please click decline and tell us why you will not be able to serve. You can also block out vacation dates in advance using the Planning Center Services app.



FINDING A SUB

If you know that you will be unable to serve on your scheduled week, contact other volunteers that serve the same age group as you and see if they are available to switch weeks. If you are unable to find a replacement, contact a Children's Staff Member.

ARRIVAL TIMES & VOLUNTEER HUB

We expect all leaders to arrive at 8:30AM/10:30AM to prepare for service. Check-in at the Volunteer Hub for your nametag, weekly prayer prompt, and to view any announcements we may have. You can also take advantage of our coffee and snack station.

Although we do not meet for circle time before service starts, we encourage any leaders that are present in the Volunteer Hub to pray for each other, and for their mornings with their kids. This will help foster community with each other, and can be a great bonding experience.

NAMETAGS

Everyone serving in Children's Ministries must wear a nametag when they serve. This is required as a safety measure, so anyone can readily identify strangers in the Preschool/Elementary hallways and rooms. Nametags build community and build confidence in the hearts of our parents and adults who are entrusting their kids to us. Any adult who is observing or shadowing in a classroom must also wear a nametag. Nametags are kept in alphabetical order in the Volunteer Hub.



CELL PHONE & PHOTO POLICY

Out of respect and protection for our children and families, it is important to put away anything that may cause a distraction while in the classroom; this includes cell



phones, iPods, cameras, and any other similar devices.

It is important that if you take pictures of kids in our area that you get permission from their family before posting on social media. Once you have permission, feel free to post and tag us on Instagram [@GraceKidsDT](#).

ATTIRE

Please be aware of your appearance so that you present a positive and welcoming impression. Keep in mind that you will be interacting with children and are an example for them. Be mindful that you may also be involved in quite a bit of movement and floor time when interacting with kids.

Please do not wear tops that are low cut, strapless, spaghetti strap, halter, or cropped. You should also refrain from wearing shorts, skirts, or dresses that are more than three inches above your knee.

SENDING LETTERS

We all love receiving mail, especially when it's for no reason other than someone thinking of us. Did a child touch your heart or make you smile? Did you have a great conversation with a parent? Send a postcard! We have different postcards available in the Volunteer Hub. Write a note, put their name on it, and we'll address and send it for you.



SUNDAY SNAPSHOT

PRESCHOOL FLOW CHART

8:30/ 10:30AM	Arrival: <i>Volunteers arrive and check-in at the volunteer hub to pray, hear announcements, and grab their nametag.</i>
8:45/ 10:45AM	Check-In: <i>Volunteers report to their classrooms, pray, and prepare. Students start arriving.</i>
9:00/ 11:00AM	Free Play or Stations: <i>Children free play, or participate in stations, and interact with leaders.</i>
9:15/ 11:15AM	Clean-Up & Welcome Activity: <i>Clean-up time. The first activity begins.</i>
9:30/ 11:30AM	Large Group: <i>Large group story begins (video or live).</i>
9:40/ 11:40AM	Small Group: <i>Leaders retell the story, and begin the second activity.</i>
10AM/ 12PM	Snack Time: <i>Be sure to wash your hands. One cup of water and one scoop of goldfish or cheerios per child.</i>
10:10AM/ 12:10PM	Wrap Up: <i>Children free play, or finish up their activity. Leaders should prepare take-home papers at the door.</i>
10:15AM/ 12:15PM	Check-Out: <i>Service ends and parents pick up their children. Collect all nametags and stick them to the orange sheet.</i>
10:30AM/ 12:30PM	Room Reset: <i>Leaders clean up their area and make sure the classroom is how they found it..</i>

ELEMENTARY FLOW CHART

8:30/ 10:30AM	Arrival: <i>Volunteers arrive and check-in at the volunteer hub to pray, hear announcements, and grab their nametag.</i>
8:45/ 10:45AM	Check-In: <i>Volunteers report to their classrooms, pray, and prepare. Students start arriving.</i>
9:00/ 11:00AM	Welcome Activity: <i>Leaders interact with students as they introduce the lesson/topic for the day.</i>
9:10/ 11:10AM	Large Group: <i>When the loud countdown is heard, kids will line up and come to the large group room for worship and story.</i>
9:50/ 11:50AM	Small Group: <i>Large group ends. Return to classrooms and begin small group activities.</i>
10:10AM/ 12:10PM	Wrap Up: <i>Finish up what students are working on, recap what was learned, and pass out take home papers.</i>
10:15AM/ 12:15PM	Check-Out <i>Service ends and parents pick up their children. Collect all nametags and stick them to the orange sheet.</i>
10:30AM/ 12:30PM	Room Reset: <i>Leaders clean up their area and make sure the classroom is how they found it.</i>

PRACTICES & GUIDELINES

UPSET KIDS

Some kids are not used to being apart from their parents, or sometimes they are just having a bad day. We will work with the parent to help their child feel comfortable, but if a child is having a difficult time and they consistently cry for ten minutes, we will contact the parents via text message.

ALLERGIES & MEDICAL NOTES

Any student with allergies or medical needs will have an indicated note on their nametag. Please check each child's nametag for allergy information before serving snacks.



Serve only the snacks that are provided in the classroom. In the event of an allergy or dietary restriction, parents can provide an appropriate snack for their child.

In the event of a mild or severe allergic reaction, alert a Children's Staff Member immediately so they can contact the parents and medical professionals if necessary.

ILLNESS

To protect the health of all kids who attend Grace, kids who have a fever or green runny nose will not be allowed in our classrooms.

If a child becomes ill during service, please contact the Service Manager or a Children's Staff Member immediately. Small Group Leaders should stay with the child while the Service Manager contacts the parents, or medical professional if necessary.

INJURY

If a minor injury occurs (such as a paper cut, bumped head, fall on the bottom, etc.), do the following:

- Console the child
- Apply a Band-Aid*, wet rag, etc.
- Pray for the child
- Fill out an “Accident Report” and give it to a Children’s Staff Member
- Tell the parents what happened when they pick up their child



**There is a first-aid kit in all classroom that contains Band-Aids for simple scratches.*

If a major injury occurs (such as an open wound, broken leg, unconsciousness, etc.), do the following:

- Call for the Service Manager to contact the parent and a medical professional.
- Console the child.
- One volunteer should stay with the child and the other should take the rest of the children to another location, such as an activity room or the story room. Once the child has been handed over to the Service Manager, the first volunteer can return to their class.
- Fill out an “Accident Report” and an “Incident Report” (if necessary) and give it to a Children’s Staff Member.

Accident Reports should be filled out after any accident, no matter how small, that occurs. Give the completed form to a Children’s Staff Member after service. Accident Reports can be found in the binders in each classroom.

If a child becomes ill or an injury occurs during service, be sure to relay that information to parents during check-out. We want to be fully transparent

with our families so they know they can trust us, and so they don't get incorrect information from their child. However, you should never reveal a child's name who was involved in the incident to another parent.

INCIDENT REPORTS

If there is a situation where a child attempts to harm another person, or themselves, damage property, or needs additional attention, please fill out an "Incident Report" and have a Children's Staff Member sign it for confirmation. Explain the situation to parents at pick up when necessary.



DISCIPLINE

We never want a child to leave our ministry feeling unloved or not cared for, so we have the following guidelines when discipline is necessary:

1. Warning: Clear and calm definition or expectation and consequence.
2. Consequence: Discretion of how the instance should be handled — moving the kids apart; moving a child to the hallway or calming room; etc.
3. Support: If the child continues to choose inappropriate behavior, parents will be notified. If you are unsure how to handle a child, ask a Children's Staff Member for help.

Under no circumstance are we ever allowed to:

- Yell, ridicule, or call a child mean names
- Use profanity
- Threaten
- Give harsh punishment

To re-direct off-task behavior, try...

- Proximity: Stand near the child while teaching, touch their shoulder or head, etc.
- Whispering: Speak softly in the child's ear, and

repeat things 2-3 times.

- Shifting: Shift gears to your next interesting topic, prop, or game
- Be Direct: Say things like “Put your finger on your knees, on your head, on your back...”

Separate kids if necessary. They can earn the right to sit next to a friend, or stand next to a friend in line. If you do correct verbally, reprimand the behavior rather than the child. For example, “Talking to your friends is saved for the last 10 minutes. It’s not appropriate now.” Rather than, “Betty, stop talking now.”

Contact parents if necessary. There are times when a child just refuses to cooperate with the Small Group Leader or with the class. If this occurs, and you’ve already tried to engage the child and have talked to him or her, ask the Service Manager to contact the parent. The parent is then welcome to take the child, or to come into the classroom and be with the child there.

CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT



RULES

Classroom rules are posted in every room. Take time to go over these rules regularly. Remind the kids of the rules when they are not following them, and acknowledge when they are following them really well.

SET LIMITS

Before every activity, tell them briefly what is expected. Such as “Stay in your seats while I hand out the paper and crayons. If you would like another piece of paper, please raise your hand.”

CATCH THEM DOING THE RIGHT THING

Positive reinforcement is important. When you catch a kid doing really well, encourage them: use

thumbs up; call out student's names; use the OK finger signal; use real sign language when you can; smile and point.

MAKE IT PERSONAL

The NextGen ministry has adopted a philosophy from the book "It's Personal" that strives to make sure every child and student feels seen, known, and loved. Something remarkable can happen when we start seeing people the way Jesus sees them. Use the following questions to discover more about the kids you lead:

1. Do you know my name?
2. Do you know what matters to me?
3. Do you know where I live?
4. Do you know what I've done?
5. Do you know what I can do?

TAKE CARE OF YOUR AREA

Please do your best to keep the classrooms organized and clean. Make sure you have all of the supplies, props, and technology that you need before service starts, and ensure that everything is left how you found it after service is over. If supplies are running low, or if something seems out of place, please tell a Children's Staff Member.

CHECK-IN/CHECK-OUT PROCESS

Every classroom has green and orange sheets to utilize for our check-in and check-out processes. Every child has two nametags when they arrive: one for their shirt, and one for the green sheet. The green sheet is used as our roster for that service.

Pay close attention to the notes on nametags. Allergy and medical notes are highlighted on this tag in black. When kids are checked out, the nametag from their shirt should be compared with the security label that the parent has to ensure that they are going with a safe person. Once confirmed, the nametag from the child's shirt, along with the security tag from the parent, should go on the orange sheet. If the parent has another child to

pick up, they can keep the security label. Feel free to take time at check-out to talk to and get to know the parents. Tell them something positive about their child, or remind them about events coming up.

If a parent arrives to pick up their child without a security label, please refer them to a Children's Staff Member, even if you know the family.

No one under the age of 18 will be allowed to check out a child. If there are questions or concerns, have that family member speak with a Children's Staff Member.

**CHECK-
OUT**

**CHECK-
IN**

YOUTH LEADERS & HELPERS

High School students (Grades 9–12) can serve in any capacity in GraceKids.

Middle School students (Grades 6–8) can assist in any capacity in GraceKids Preschool with an adult leader present, but may not carry children while standing.

Students in Grades 3-5 may assist in GraceKids Preschool classrooms as Youth Helpers, but may not carry children while standing. However, students in this age group may only serve in the Infant/Toddler room if a parent or guardian serves with them.

No one under 18 years of age is allowed to change a child's diaper.

CLASSROOM RATIOS

It is always our goal to adequately staff preschool and elementary classrooms during weekend services; however, in the event of last-minute volunteer cancellations, we will post "help needed" signs. If

some rooms are unable to be opened due to lack of volunteers, we will combine certain ages, but the ratios for those rooms remain the same.

Classroom ratios vary based on the age of the students, and how many leaders there are. Service Managers and Children's Staff Members will monitor preschool and elementary classrooms during check-in to keep track of attendance and alert the Family Welcome Center when a classroom is full.



PLAN TO PROTECT

MANDATED REPORTING

According to Michigan state law, all Children's Staff Members working directly with children are considered mandated reporters. Here are the instructions for reporting suspected child abuse/neglect:

1. If you suspect a child in your class is being abused or neglected, please share all the information you have with the Children's Director immediately following your service.
2. Together, a decision will be made if proceeding to file a report should be made.
3. If a report is necessary, then together a DHS-3200 form will be filled out online.
4. A copy of the DHS-3200 form will be filed within the GraceKids Ministry for record.

For more information, visit michigan.gov.

PROTECTION GUIDELINES

For the protection of both children and volunteers:

- Everyone who works around children will be asked to fill out an Application and complete a Background Check Release Form.
- No child should be inside or outside of a classroom without adult supervision.
- No one should be alone in a classroom with an individual child.
- No one is to be alone in a bathroom at any time with a child. If a child needs assistance, call the service manager, or leave the door open and ask another leader to stand where they can see into the bathroom.
- Feel free to ask another Small group Leader or the Service Manager for any assistance whenever needed.

Good Touch

vs.

Bad Touch



APPROPRIATE

- Brief hugs/Side hugs
- Pats on the shoulder, back, or head
- Handshakes
- High-Fives & Fist Bumps
- Arms around shoulders
- Holding hands with small children while walking
- Sitting beside small children
- Kneeling or bending down for hugs with small children
- Holding hands during prayer



INAPPROPRIATE

- Lengthy embraces or kisses
- Holding children over three years old on your lap
- Touching bottoms, chests, or private areas other than appropriate diaper or toileting of infants and toddlers
- Showing affection in isolated areas
- Touching knees or legs
- Wrestling or tickling
- Piggyback rides
- Any type of massage
- Any form of unwanted affection
- Comments that relate to physique or body development

HEALTH & SAFETY

Both leaders and students should wash their hands before handling food for snack time.

Please avoid bringing up sensitive topics in the group that are not age-appropriate. Topics such as sex and suicide may be appropriate for the church to address with middle school and high school kids, but not elementary or preschool kids without prior consent from parents. Please ask a Children's Staff Member if you have any questions.



EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

EVACUATION

The building will be evacuated in the event of an emergency that threatens our safety. This includes, but is not limited to, fire, bomb threat, or gas leak.

In the event of an evacuation, the service manager will notify each Small Group Leader to inform them of which exit to use.

One small group leader should grab the emergency backpack and the class roster and lead the children to the nearest exit. Please be sure you are familiar with the exits near your classroom. The other small group leader should leave the room last and double check for children in the room on the way out. Be sure to check under tables and behind doors, and close the classroom door on your way out.

No personal belongings should be brought with the children. Parents can claim these items after we have received an “all clear.”

In the event of an evacuation, leaders should guide their students across the parking lot to Covenant Care Center. A member of the Grace Staff will open the center and be there to receive us. Parents will be allowed to pick up their children once we receive an “all clear” notification.



TAKE COVER

We would be notified to take-cover in the event of a tornado.

In the event of a tornado, we will be informed to go to the basement. Designated volunteers will direct us to specific rooms to wait for the “all clear.” The Teaching Pastor will dismiss parents with instructions for them to pick up their children. When parents arrive, they will give their security badge to a volunteer, and regular check-out procedures will resume.

LOCKDOWN

The Children’s area will go into lockdown in the event of civil unrest when evacuation is not a safe option. Grace Community Church uses the ALICE method to prepare for this kind of emergency.

The ALICE program empowers individuals to participate in their own survival using proactive response strategies in the face of violence. The program is designed to ensure anybody can employ the strategies. Young, old, male, female, it does not matter. Individuals do not have to be a police officer, or military trained to survive a violent encounter.

- **ALERT:** Your first notification of danger. It is recognizing the signs of danger and receiving information about the danger from others.
- **LOCKDOWN:** If evacuation is not a safe option, barricade entry points. Prepare to Evacuate or Counter if needed.
- **INFORM:** Communicate real time information on shooter and direct language using any communication means possible.
- **COUNTER:** As a last resort, create noise, movement, distance, and distraction to reduce the shooter’s ability to shoot accurately.
- **EVACUATE:** When safe to do so, run from danger using exits if necessary. Rally points should be predetermined.

Remember, there are no guarantees in an active shooter/violent intruder situation, but just as in most other emergency situations the more you prepare, the better your chances of survival.

(ALICE Training Institute, Alicetraininginstitute.com, 2023).

If the Children's area is instructed to prepare for lockdown, do the following:

- Shut classroom doors immediately and ensure that they are locked and latched tightly
- If your classroom has windows, close the blinds
- All children and volunteers should move into the corner closest to the hallway wall to avoid being seen by someone looking into the classroom. Use tables or chairs as shields if there is sufficient time. Remain quiet, and try to keep kids calm until a Staff Member or Security Team Member comes to evacuate you or gives you the all clear.
- Do not open the door for anyone. Staff and Security Team members have keys that can open the doors when it is safe to do so.



EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

CURRICULUM

WHERE DO I FIND MY CURRICULUM?

All curriculum is sent out the week leading up to your scheduled Sunday and can be accessed through Planning Center. When Opening Planning Center services, in the app or on a desktop, view the Plan Files and download your age group's curriculum from there.

PRESCHOOL CURRICULUM

The “Brite” curriculum from Awana is designed to form lasting faith by helping kids belong to God and His Kingdom, believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and to become like Jesus and walk in His ways through the power of the Holy Spirit.

BELONG.

BELIEVE.

BECOME.

WELCOME

Designed to: introduce kids to the topic of the day so they're prepared to hear the message, give the Small Group Leader a chance to “hang out” with the kids and get to know them, and give the kids a chance to get to know each other.

After a little bit of time for the kids to play or participate in stations, the Welcome is the first organized activity you will do each Sunday morning. These activities will be related to the Bible story and are designed so that every kid feels loved, known, and has a sense of belonging. Be sure to use a lot of enthusiasm to keep the kids interested, and allude to the Bible story throughout the morning to get them interested in what they will hear later.

LARGE GROUP (Worship & Bible Story)

Designed to: teach our preschoolers how to worship God through song and gives kids an opportunity to discover who God is by engaging with the Bible in community with others.

Preschool students learn the story through an interactive live story and video story. Thanks for sitting with the kids and showing them what listening and participating looks like; it is a big help. There may be times when you need to hold a child in your lap or have them sit next to you in order to keep them from wandering or being a distraction during story time.

SMALL GROUP

Designed to: help kids understand how the day's Bible story applies to them, memorize scripture, and interact with other kids.

The activities are varied to impact kids with different learning styles. The activities provided during small group time will help kids discover who God is by engaging with the Bible personally, and will teach them to become like Jesus by learning to walk in His ways.

THE TREASURE BOX

The Treasure Box is our way of encouraging participation with our younger kids, similar to the Garage Sale in Elementary! On the last Sunday of every month, preschool students will be asked a question relating to that week's lesson and can pick out one prize if they get it right.

All students, Infants-Grade 6, can choose a prize from the birthday box at the Garage Sale the Sunday before or after their birthday.

ELEMENTARY CURRICULUM

The “Brite” curriculum from Awana is designed to form lasting faith by helping kids belong to God and His Kingdom, believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and to become like Jesus and walk in His ways through the power of the Holy Spirit.

BELONG.

BELIEVE.

BECOME.

GATHERING ACTIVITY

(In the classroom/Small Groups, before Large Group; 10 mins)

Designed to: introduce kids to the topic of the day so they’re prepared to hear the message, give the Small Group Leader a chance to “hang out” with the kids and get to know them, and give the kids a chance to get to know each other.

The Welcome is the first organized activity you will do each Sunday morning. These activities will be related to the Bible story and are designed so that every kid feels loved, known, and has a sense of belonging. Be sure to use a lot of enthusiasm to keep the kids interested, and allude to the Bible story throughout the morning to get them interested in what they will hear later.

LARGE GROUP

(Large Group Room; 30–40 mins)

Designed to: teach our students how to worship God through song and gives kids an opportunity to discover who God is by engaging with the Bible in community with others.

Elementary students learn the story through an interactive live story. Thanks for sitting with the kids and showing them what listening and participating looks like; it is a big help. There may be times when you need to ask a child to

stop being disruptive. Please help the storyteller and Children's Staff Member with "crowd control" during large group.

SMALL GROUP

(In the classroom/Small Groups, after Large Group, 15-20 mins)

Designed to help kids: understand how the Bible Story applies to them, learn how to pray, memorize scripture, and interact with other kids.

The activities are varied to impact kids with different learning styles. The activities provided during small group time will help kids discover who God is by engaging with the Bible personally, and will teach them to become like Jesus by learning to walk in His ways. As service comes to a close, please pass out the weekly Take Homes to each child.

THE GARAGE SALE

The Garage Sale is our way of encouraging participation and celebrating birthdays! The Garage Sale is available for our GraceKids Elementary students. Feel free to pass out coins (found in your classroom) when kids:

- Bring their Bible (1 coin)
- Recite their memory verse (1 coin)
- Turn in their completed weekly devotional (5 coins)
- Bring a friend (1 coin per kid)
- Participate well (1 coin)

Kids can cash in their coins on the last Sunday of every month. They can also choose a prize from the birthday box the Sunday before or after their birthday.



ABOUT GRACE

MISSION

WE ARE A MOSAIC
STRIVING TO LIVE LIKE JESUS.

We celebrate a unique diversity at Grace Community Church. Our city is broken in many ways—people are divided by race, economics, life experiences and heritage. At Grace, our desire is to take these fragments of brokenness and bring them together to form a beautiful mosaic where we can find unity through Jesus. We welcome people from all stages and walks of life, regardless of where you are on your spiritual journey.

WE VALUE

Authenticity
Outreach
Life-Change
Belonging
Others-Focused

6 ESSENTIALS

Gather
Connect
Serve
Influence
Devotion
Generosity

WHAT WE BELIEVE

THE PERSON OF GOD

We believe in one God, creator of all things, infinitely perfect and eternally existing in three equal persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. (*Matthew 28:18-19; Deuteronomy 6:4; John 17:5; 1 John 5:7-8; Romans 1:20*).

a. GOD THE FATHER

God the Father is the Father over all creation (*Acts 17:29*), Father of the Lord Jesus Christ (*Matthew 3:17, John 3:16*), and Father of all believers (*Galations 3:26*). It is He who sent Christ to the world in order to save the world (*John 3:16-17*). He is our provider (*Matthew 7:9-11*) and our source of loving discipline and direction (*Hebrews 12:5-11*).

b. GOD THE SON

Jesus Christ is true God and true man, having been conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He died on the cross, a sacrifice for our sins according to the Scriptures. He arose bodily from the dead and He ascended into heaven, where, at the right hand of God the Father, He is our High Priest and Advocate. (*Luke 1:34-35; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; Romans 5:8; Galations 3:13; Hebrews 2:9; 1 John 2:2*). From there, He will return to earth one day, take his own unto Him, and establish His eternal kingdom of righteousness and peace. (*Acts 1:11; Revelation 19:11-20; Isaiah 9:6-7; 11:2-5*).

c. GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit is a person possessing all the divine attributes. He is God. He convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment. He regenerates, seals, and sets apart the

believer to a holy life. At regeneration, He baptizes the believer into the body of Christ and comes to indwell him permanently. (*1 Corinthians 2:10-11, 12:11; Isaiah 40:13-14; Psalms 139:7; Titus 3:5; John 3:5-7, 14:16-17, 16:8; Ephesians 1:13-14; 2 Thessalonians 2:13; 1 Corinthians 2:13; Romans 8:9*).

THE WORD OF GOD

We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament are verbally inspired by God and without error in the original writings and that the exact meaning of the Scriptures is essentially unchanged in the widely accepted English translations. The Scriptures are authoritative and without error in any category of knowledge, including science and history, and are supreme and final authority in all matters about which they speak. We believe the Scriptures are to be interpreted in a normal and literal way and that they are understood as the believer is guided by the Spirit of God. (*John 10:35; Matthew 5:18; 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:21; 1 Corinthians 2:13; 1 Timothy 5:18; 1 Corinthians 2:14-16; John 16:12-15*).

THE WORK OF GOD

We believe that God created the world (*Genesis 1:1*) and it was very good (*Genesis 1:31*). However, because of man's rebellion, God now is in the redemptive process of reconciling his creation to Himself according to His perfect plan and will (*2 Corinthians 5:18-20*).

**"FOR WE ARE
GOD'S HANDIWORK,
CREATED IN
CHRIST JESUS
TO DO GOOD WORKS,
WHICH GOD PREPARED
IN ADVANCE
FOR US TO DO."**

EPHESIANS 2:10



GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH

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