

---

# GRACE GROUPS FOSTERING COMMUNITY GOSPEL CENTERED MAKING DISCIPLES

---

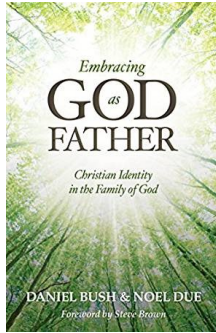
**We believe** in Jesus Christ, and this brings us together in a community. But living life together is hard in a culture that is full of distractions and busy-ness. Sunday mornings are wonderful times of worship, but we long for more life-on-life interaction and the experience of our unity in Christ.

Enter **Grace Groups**. For the past 6+ years, Grace Bellingham has offered small groups that follow the school year. Beginning in September, ending in June, these regular meetings allow for time together outside of our regular worship services. Group facilitators open up their homes to have more informal fellowship and discussion of real life issues.

Our groups aren't all alike. Some will be child-friendly, others less so. They'll meet on different days and different times. They'll be structured differently, too; depending on the leader, they might meet weekly, every other week, or on a rotating schedule.

For this year, we have two main pillars: care and content. **Care** means that every group has a focus on caring for each other in community. We value fellowship and real life. **Content** means that these aren't just social groups. Bible study, book discussion, sermon review—there will be a focus on discussion of truth oriented on the Word of God.

As a special start to this year, we're excited to start off all the groups with the same book. Enthusiastically recommended by our elders, *Embracing God as Father* is a wonderful encouragement to consider how our heavenly father breaks into our world in Christ and loves and grows us. Books are free!



Mark your calendars: groups start the week of **September 17-22**. A list of available groups and locations will be in the bulletin next week, or check [www.gracebellingham.org/ministries/grace-groups](http://www.gracebellingham.org/ministries/grace-groups).