



# G R O W

## IN GROUPLIFE

**YOUR GUIDE FOR CONNECTING &  
MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR GROWTH**



**FIRST BAPTIST**  
BRYAN

# FAITHWORKS



A STUDY IN JAMES

**A fall 2025 churchwide study of the New Testament book of *James*, featuring staff-written devotional content, GroupLife lessons, and sermons from pastor Jim Heiligman beginning August 24, 2025.**

# A LIFETIME OF GROWTH

Imagine you've just gotten married. The "big day" was an over-the-top celebration with your beloved, your friends, and your family. Upon exiting the wedding venue, you're blasted with bubbles and birdseed on the way to the parking lot. You hop into (not one, but) two different cars and head your separate ways, with a promise to meet up weekly – just for an hour. In public. Unless there's something else that comes up. Predictably, it wouldn't take long for your marriage to feel disconnected and distant. Why? Because the wedding day isn't the goal. It is simply meant to celebrate and usher in an inseparable way of doing a lifetime of marriage together.

The same is true of your relationship with God. You were saved to make the most of your relationship with God for the rest of your life. Around here, we would say that your purpose in life is to ***make Jesus your all and to share Him with all.*** "Make" is an important word. It signals that you have a choice on how you will live. Will you live essentially disconnected and distant from the One who saved you? Or will you grow closer to Him and live the life of joy and purpose He intends for you to experience?

Our church family shares the same mission you do as an individual. Our ministry model is tailored to help us make Jesus our all and share Him with all. If you will be faithful to gather in Worship, ***grow in GroupLife***, and go on mission with us, you can expect your heart to beat with love for Jesus and His Kingdom purposes.

This guide will help you cultivate long-term growth for your life, so you won't waste years struggling adrift from Jesus. We want you to take hold of the abundant life He died to give you now, before you experience eternal life on the other side. Once you have your plan nailed down, your best move is to connect with others who will help you stick to it. We are God-wired to grow and do life together in groups.

Keep reading to find out more about how you can connect and make the most of your growth in GroupLife at FBC Bryan.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## **1: GROUPLIFE: 3 ESSENTIAL GROUPS**

## **2: ASSESSMENT & GROWTH PLAN**

## **3: SUNDAY A.M. GROUPS**

10:10 & 11:30 AM GroupLife Classes

## **4: DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS**

Journey Groups

Mentoring...and more

## **5: MIDWEEK GROUPS**

MidWeek Growth Groups

Living Well Ministries



# 3 ESSENTIAL GROUPS

Our “GroupLife” ministry is comprised of 3 essential types of groups that facilitate Christian growth and maturity. Groups can be on-campus, off-campus, on-going, long-term, or short-term. Each type of group is unique in form and emphasis. Each type is critical, depending on the season you are in.

## SUNDAY A.M. GROUPLIFE CLASSES

These weekly, on-going groups provide foundational Bible study, relationship connections, and opportunities to be on-mission together.

We encourage every member of FBCBryan to find community in a Sunday a.m. GroupLife class and make it a part of their weekly Sunday morning rhythm.

## DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

These longer-term groups are for those seeking intentional discipleship, mentoring, or accountability resulting in intimacy with God and fruitful living for His Kingdom purposes.

## MIDWEEK GROUPS

These semester-based, short-term groups meet primarily on Wednesday nights, but also during the week, and give focus to areas of needed personal or spiritual growth in various types of group settings.

# PERSONAL ASSESSMENT

Rank each of the statements below.

1 means "Very Untrue" on the scale. 5 means "Very True."

**1. Our family members attend our Sunday a.m. GroupLife classes 3 out of 4 Sundays per month.**

1   2   3   4   5

**2. I feel known and cared for in this church family.**

1   2   3   4   5

**3. I feel daily closeness and intimacy with God.**

1   2   3   4   5

**4. I have developed the habit of self-feeding on God's Word most days of the week.**

1   2   3   4   5

**5. I know my spiritual gifting and am using it to influence others for Christ.**

1   2   3   4   5

**6. Issues from my family, or life tragedies, have set back my walk with Christ.**

1   2   3   4   5

**7. Hurts, habits, or hangups interfere with my spiritual growth and service to others.**

1   2   3   4   5

**8. I have a mentor or a handful of friends I meet at least monthly for mutual encouragement in Christ.**

1   2   3   4   5

**9. I have found the ministry area I believe God made me for.**

1   2   3   4   5

**10. I am a disciple-maker.**

1   2   3   4   5

# GROWTH PLAN

## Score your Personal Assessment:

### **Add together the scores for Questions 1 & 2.**

If you scored **below** 6, you should connect with and fully participate in the life of a Sunday a.m. GroupLife class, along with Worship, as part of your weekly Sunday a.m. routine.

### **Add the scores for Questions 3-5 and 8-10.**

If you scored **below** 18, you should review the Discipleship Group options and select the option that seems most fitting. We encourage every member to participate in a Journey Group to lay a strong foundation of a healthy, vibrant relationship with Jesus and a lifetime of fruitful influence.

### **Add together the scores for Questions 6 & 7.**

If you scored **greater than** 6, you should review MidWeek options and select the option that best addresses needed areas for personal and spiritual growth. Living Well Ministries bring wholeness to personal and relationship areas. Adult growth studies provide an opportunity for focused spiritual growth in an area of particular interest. Full programming for preschoolers through youth are available on Wednesday nights so any adult can tend to their area of needed growth.

# SUNDAY MORNING GROUPS



**G R O W**  
IN GROUPLIFE



# SUNDAY MORNING RHYTHM

## WHERE DO I START?

We make it easy to get started. Decide whether you want to start with a temporary, 5-week, pastor-led class during our fall **Faith Works** study to break the ice into GroupLife, or jump into a permanent life-stage class that makes sense for you.

### CHOOSE A PASTOR-LED CLASS

Our team of discipleship pastors, who wrote the fall **Faith Works** content, are teaching a handful of 5-week classes for you to experience a taste of GroupLife for the first time. Pick the group that seems to fit your life stage best at the time that works for you.

OR

### CHOOSE A LIFE-STAGE CLASS

There are nearly 50 adult classes in which you can build community, grow in your faith, and be on mission together. Most prefer building community with others in their life stage. But we also have classes for building intergenerational connections.

## 5-WEEK PASTOR-LED CLASSES

### 10:10 AM GROUPLIFE HOUR

**Younger Mixed Adults** | Room 120F | David Booth

**Older Mixed Adults** | Room 120GH | David Gusewelle

### 11:30 AM GROUPLIFE HOUR

**Younger Single Adults** | Room Loft A | Gary Peil

**Couples with Kids & Teens** | Room 270 | David Booth

**Adult Women** | Room 271 | Reneé Brady

**Mixed Adults** | Room 120GH | David Gusewelle

# LIFE-STAGE GROUP LIFE CLASSES

**Sundays 10:10 am**

Singles Department

## **THE LOFT @ 10:10**

**20s – 40s | Loft A&B | Jason Whisenant & Alicia Stephenson**

For young single adults in their 20s - 40s who are continuing in their education or getting started in their careers.

## **THE LOFT | PRIMETIME**

**50s+ | Loft C | Chris Thompson, Wes Blizzard, Richard Huey**

This class of 50+ singles studies the Bible through a facilitator/group discussion format, and plans numerous activities to build community during the week.



# Families Department

## **YOUNG COUPLES**

**Engaged or Married, without Kids | Room 276 | Tell & Susan Butler**

This class is for engaged or married couples with no children. Couples will learn how to follow Jesus, build each other up in community, and share Jesus at home and in other places of personal influence.

## **PLANTING SEEDS**

**Parents of Preschoolers | 270 | Tyler Pigg & Adam Venesky**

This coed class is for parents with young children. Parents will learn to follow Jesus, build each other up in community, and share Jesus at home and in other places of influence.

## **FAITHFUL FOUNDATIONS CLASS**

**Parents of Preschoolers & Kids | 272 | Robert Cheyne**

A great place for couples with elementary age children to connect with new friends and discover the Bible's wisdom for home life, following Jesus, and living in community.

## **REED/ TAYLOR CLASS**

**Parents of PS & Kids | 275B | Chris & Barb Reed, M. Taylor**

This class connects parents with preschool and school age kids. This group utilizes a rotation that teaches through the Old & New Testaments using The Gospel Project curriculum.

## **1BY PARENTS @ 10:10**

**Parents of Youth | Room 170 | John Fellers**

This adult coed class is for parents whose youth are in the First Baptist Youth (1BY) ministry. It will encourage parents' partnership in the discipleship of their teens.

## **1BY: REFINING FIRE**

**Parents of Youth | Room 275A | Jason Whittle**

This adult coed class is for parents with teens. Through group discussion, it will encourage adult community and parents' partnership in the discipleship of their teens.

## **THE GATHERING**

**Adults 20s – 60s | Room 273 | Jeremy Palmer**

This class includes men and women in different stages of family life who learn to follow, love each other, and live on mission together.

### Median Adults (50s – 60s)

## **LIVING FREE**

**Adults 45-50s | Room: 271 | Alex Berwick**

These couples are learning how to live in the new freedoms that come as their nest empties. Their focus is living free as a Christ-follower, loving each other, and living on mission.

## **LAIR CLASS**

**Adults, 50s | Room FH 120C | Pete Lair**

This casual adult coed class primarily includes adults in their 40s-60s but welcomes adults of younger and older generations.

## **JESUS LIFESTYLE**

**Adults, 50s+ | Room FH 120D | Richard Alexander**

This coed median adult class encourages apprentices (disciples) of Jesus to continue learning to follow, loving each other, and living on mission.



## **LEGACY BUILDERS**

**Adults, 60s+ | Choir Room | Matt Marsh**

This class gives focus to rebuilding marriage connections in this stage of life and increasing a Kingdom legacy.

## **GENERATIONS WOMEN'S**

**Adult Women, 20s – 80+ | Modular 1 | Betty Barrett**

This interactive class includes women of all ages and life stages who enjoy learning to follow, loving each other, and living on mission. The class uses MasterWorks curriculum.

## **KINGDOM SEEKERS**

**60s+ Adults | 236B | Dicky Herron, Mickey Blackwell**

This coed class is for median adults in their 50s+, and follows LifeWay's MasterWorks from renowned Christian authors to deepen personal engagement with God's Word.

## **WALKING WITH JOY CLASS**

**60s+ Adults | Room 235 | Jim & Tamera Eggebrecht**

This coed class features deep, verse by verse, interactive study of the Bible in which discussion is encouraged and every member is free to comment.

## **WALKING IN FAITH WOMEN'S**

**Adult women, 60s+ | Room 233 | Alana Curry**

This women's class studies a variety of Scriptural topics and features a facilitator/discussion format. Prayer is a major part of each meeting.

## **BROWER MEN'S**

**Adult men, 65+ | Room 234 | Rob Brower**

Following the Explore the Bible curriculum, this class of adult men uses a facilitator/group discussion format.

# CORNERSTONE

**Adults 60s+ | 236A | Dale O'Reilly & Karen Lancaster**

This class will walk through every book of the Bible using Explore the Bible curriculum. They will give focus to learning to follow Jesus, loving each other, and living on mission.

## Senior Adults (70+)

# CLOSER WALK

**70s+ Adults | Room 231 | Jim Jackson**

This close, caring class of Baby Boomer adults is highly engaged in local ministry and missions. New spiritual insights are gained working through the Explore the Bible curriculum.

# SALT AND LIGHT

**70s+ Adults | Room FH 120A | James Henry**

This young senior adult class for men and women meets every week together for Bible study, authentic fellowship, and making a difference in their places of influence.

# OBERHELMEN CLASS

**70s+ Adults | Room 241 | Steve Oberhelmen**

This class of intensively studies the Bible each week through engaging lecture and discussion. Dr. Oberhelman is a professor of New Testament Greek and dean at Texas A&M University.

# OPEN DOOR

**70s+ Adults | Room 136B | Bill Moore**

The Open Door class provides senior adult men and women the opportunity to study God's word, enjoy each other's fellowship, and be on mission together.

## **GRACE WOMEN'S**

**Senior Women | Conference Room (128) | Gretchen Hanson**

This senior adult women's study uses the Explore the Bible curriculum. Featuring a group discussion format, everyone is encouraged to make comments and ask questions.

## **ENCOURAGERS**

**75+ Adults | Room 137 | Glen Thompson**

Each session includes scripture readings, a lesson, and a time for questions and discussion.

## **EUNICE WOMEN'S**

**50s - 70s+ Women | Room 138 | Karlyn Fedora**

This class of senior adult ladies includes and welcomes younger women and uses the Explore the Bible curriculum each week.

## **FAITHFUL SENIOR COED**

**80s+ Adults | Room 136A | Frank Murphy**

This class works through Explore the Bible curriculum with a rotation of teachers and a variety of styles—lecture, discussion, Q&A.

## **BUSINESS MEN'S BIBLE CLASS**

**80s+ Adult Men | Room 135 | Joyce, Kling, Springfield**

This traditional Bible study is open to all who desire to participate in the "business" of sharing Jesus.



# Special Needs Adults

## **SILENT ADULTS**

**Hearing Impaired | Conference Room (131) | JoRaye Lands**

This class is designed to provide a GroupLife experience to those who are hearing impaired.

## **SPECIAL ADULTS**

**Special Needs | Room 240 | Renny Boase**

This class is designed to provide a GroupLife experience for adults with special needs.

## Sundays 11:30 am

### **THE LOFT @ 11:30**

**20s & 30s Singles | Loft A&B | Peils & Luces**

For young single adults and students in their 20s & 30s looking for a place to grow in relationship with God and community with others.

### **THE LOFT | PATHFINDERS**

**Single Parents | Loft C | Greta Calvary**

For single parents of any age to find support and community. This class studies the Bible through a facilitator/group discussion format and provides practical care as they navigate this season of life together.



## CO-LABORERS

**20-something Couples | Room 274 | Jonathan Furlong**

A class for engaged or married 20-something couples establishing their families and careers.

## PARENTS OF KIDS

**Parents of Preschoolers & Kids | 275A | Matt Ferguson**

A class for parents with kids to learn to follow, love each other, and live on mission together.

## 1BY PARENTS @ 11:30

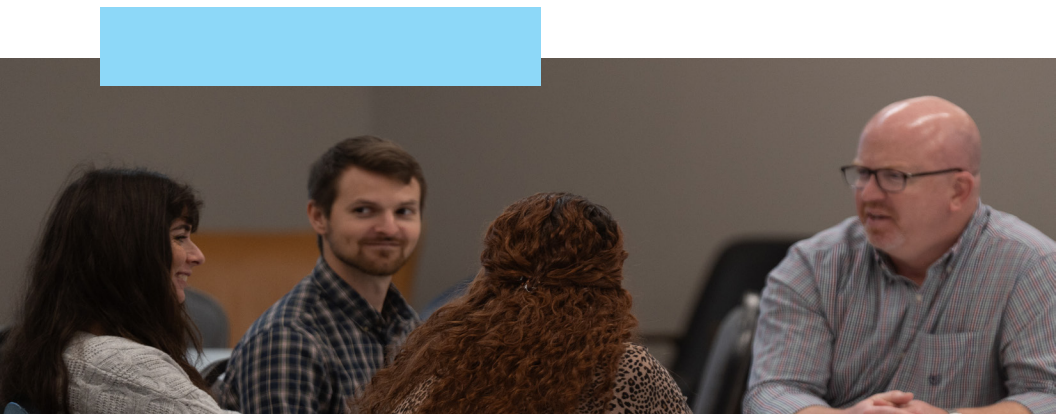
**Parents of Youth | Room 170 | James Inmon**

This adult coed class is for parents whose youth are in the First Baptist Youth (1BY) ministry. It will encourage parents' partnership in the discipleship of their teens.

## PRACTICING THE WAY

**Coed, 20s - 60s+ | 272 | Jeff Turner & Andrew Howerton**

This multi-generational, adult, coed class seeks the power of the Gospel to transform their lives. Each week, the Bible study gives focus on how to daily abide in Jesus.



## **SEASONS**

**20s – 60s+ Women | Room 138 | Nancy Taylor**

This multi-generational adult women's class uses the Gospel Project curriculum to give focus to seeing Jesus in all of scripture, abiding in Him, and being transformed by Him.

## **SHIELD & SWORD**

**Coed 40s – 55+ | Room 137 | Mike Lang & Marc Malone**

This growing median adult class is learning to follow Jesus, to love well, and to live on mission together.

## **THE SWORD**

**Coed 60s+ | Room 135 | Bob Turner**

This class is for senior adults who attend the 10:10am Worship Service. They give focus to Bible Study, fellowship & being on mission together.

## **Spanish Ministry Classes**

### **TEENAGER/ADOLESCENTE 13 - 17**

**Salón: 235 | Maestros: Nivea Lozada & Diana Gomez**

¡Dios cambia vidas! Un verdadero encuentro con Jesús deja una marca para siempre en aquellos que buscan a Jesús, así como aconteció en la vida del apóstol Pablo. Toda la trayectoria de su vida cambió al rendirse a Jesús, el Salvador del mundo.

### **JOVENES Y UNIVERSITARIOS**

**Salón: 236B | Maestros: Sam & Joyce Allen**

Los temas que estamos aprendiendo en esta clase este año son sobre: la envidia, el contentamiento, la importancia del compañerismo, sobre la amistad, y como ser un promotor de la paz.

## **NUEVOS CREYENTES**

**Salón: 232 | Maestros: Rosy Luna**

Esta clase es el comienzo para personas que inician su caminar con Jesús. Los temas que se tratan tienen que ver con: la salvación, viviendo en el Espíritu, oración y otros. Con gozo anticipamos tenerte en esta clase.

## **ADULTOS 22 - 34**

**Salón: 234 | Maestra: Jenny Sáenz & Jaquéline Zavala**

En esta clase nos sumergiremos en lo esencial del mensaje de la Biblia que gira en torno a la vida y la persona y enseñanzas de nuestro Señor Jesucristo. Examinaremos la misión de Jesús como portador de las buenas nuevas de salvación y veremos cómo sus milagros y enseñanzas señalan a una íntima relación con Dios.

## **ADULTOS 35-44**

**Salón: 233 | Maestra: Teo Cisneros & Eric Centeno**

Una iglesia auténtica analiza lo que dice el Nuevo Testamento sobre la naturaleza de la iglesia. Al examinar la vida y obra de Jesús, somos llamados a responder a quien es Él negándonos a nosotros mismos en Él y siguiéndolo diariamente.

## **ADULTOS 45-54**

**Salón: 136A | Maestros: Sandra Cisneros & Sergio Carrera**

En esta clase conoceremos la invitación que Jesús nos extiende a identificarnos con Él. Comprenderemos el propósito del sacrificio de Su muerte y el poder de Su resurrección.

## **ADULTOS 55+**

**Salón: 136B | Maestro: Eleazar Colina**

En esta clase aprenderemos sobre el desafío a compartir la misión de Jesús porque la verdad sobre Él es demasiado grande para guardárnosla solo para nosotros.

# NEXTGEN MINISTRIES

Sundays 8:40, 10:10 & 11:30 am

## SEEDLINGS SUNDAY SCHOOL

**1st Floor: Birth to Pre-K | Preschool Staff: Chelsye Rich**

Our teachers engage preschoolers in age-graded, developmentally appropriate teaching and activities to help them experience God and His Word. Families will check their preschoolers in at the computer kiosk and follow department safety protocols before entering their classrooms.

Sundays 10:10 & 11:30 am

## KIDS SUNDAY SCHOOL

**2nd Floor: K – 6th Grade | Kids Ministry Staff: Jay Miller**

## 1BY GROUPLIFE

**Matt's House (Youth Building) | Staff: Ethan Getrost**

During each Sunday morning GroupLife hour, students are broken into small groups by gender and grade to study and discuss the lesson of the week with adult youth workers.



# COLLEGE MINISTRIES

## COLLEGE GROUPLIFE

**College Life Space Rm 172 | Staff: Gary Peil**

Our college students meet for brunch and fellowship, followed by interactive teaching and small group discussion. This is great way to get connected to our group, build friendships, grow in your knowledge of who Jesus is and be challenged to live your life on mission.

# DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

# JOURNEY GROUPS

Many Christians spend decades tending to their spiritual life by trial and error. Or worse, they don't tend to it at all. Going to weekly Worship Services, and even Sunday School, does not guarantee a healthy, vibrant walk with the Lord if a foundation for growth has not been cultivated.

***"I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing."***

**John 15:5 ESV**

*The Journey* is a 9-month discipleship process, that helps believers experience God personally, grow in an abiding relationship with Jesus, and live with fruitful influence.

In a Journey Group of 6-10 same-gender believers, you will learn how to self-feed on God's Word, engage with God through journaling, identify hindrances to your walk with God, discover your spiritual gifting and how to use it, and leave a legacy of influence. Each Journey Group has 2-3 Co-Guides who have gone through *The Journey* and are ready to guide you in the process.

In the month of October, you will hear Worship service testimonies and reminders about Journey Groups. A booth in the atrium for you to meet Journey Group leaders will be setup on October 5 & 12. And a 2-week preview of *The Journey* on October 19 & 26 will take place during the GroupLife hour on Sunday morning at 10:10 a.m. in Fellowship Hall Room 120GH.

Head to our church website at [fbcbryan.org/grow](http://fbcbryan.org/grow) to find out more about Journey Groups before then.



# MENTORING...AND MORE

There are many ways that God develops believers into disciples through the church, the Body of Christ. Many of these are organic and happen naturally in relationships. But in a church this size, intentionality and resources are necessary and helpful.

## ACCOUNTABILITY GROUPS

For many years, Accountability Groups have helped many believers make Jesus their all and share Him with all in the context of close friendships. Accountability Groups are resourced with key questions and resources helping groups to go beyond small talk into supportive spiritual conversations. We encourage everyone to meet regularly with a few others as an ongoing lifestyle. You can find guidance and resources for your Accountability Group at [fcbryan.org/grow](https://fcbryan.org/grow).

## MENTORING

Over the last few years, God has been raising up several in our church with a heart for mentoring. Others, have sensed the need to be mentored. Mentoring is a type of relationship-based discipleship that happens between seasoned and newer believers. Our women's, men's, and college ministries are developing mentoring pathways, training, and resources. If you would like information on mentoring, or being mentored, I encourage you to reach out to one of these ministry areas for more information.

A man with a beard and a straw hat, wearing a plaid shirt and a dark apron, is shown from the chest up, leaning over and working in a field. The background is a soft-focus field of plants. The entire image is overlaid with a warm, orange-red color filter. The text "MIDWEEK GROUPS" is centered in the middle of the image in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

# MIDWEEK GROUPS





# MIDWEEK GROWTH GROUPS

**The Fall 2025 MidWeek Semester runs from August 20 - December 10** (except 10/15 and 11/26 for Bryan ISD Fall & Thanksgiving Breaks). There is NO preschool - kids programming on August 20 – parents will be with their children during Family Fun Night (inflatables, concessions, other activities).

Following a 5pm Fellowship Meal, MidWeek groups meet Wednesday nights from 6-7:30 (unless otherwise noted). Full programming for Preschool - Youth ministries meets during this time. After Care until 8pm is provided for parents registered in Living Well Ministry programming or parents in Worship rehearsals.

**The following short-term, semester-based groups foster growth in an area of spiritual interest.**

**5:45 – 6:45 pm | Selah: Church Prayer Ministry | Large Conference Room**

**Who is Jesus Anyway? | Room 136A**

**Collision of Church and Culture | Room 136B**

**Making Jesus Your All in Marriage | Coed | Room 271**

**Essentials of the Christian Faith | Women | Room 270**

**Experiencing God | Men's Study | Room 275A**

**Birds & Bees Takes Flight | 8/27 - 10/8 | Room 275B**

**Spiritual Journaling | Women | 10/22 - 12/10 | 275B**

**Find Your People | Singles Study | Room 284 (The Loft)**

**Other Bible study groups meet during the week through our Women's and Senior Adult ministries.**



# LIVING WELL MINISTRIES

Living Well Ministries at First Baptist Bryan brings hope, healing, and wholeness through gospel-centered, needs-based ministries. We have seen many believers overcome prevailing obstacles that have interfered with them experiencing freedom and abundant life in Christ.

**The following are Living Well ministries that are offered in the Fall 2025 semester.**

**Divorce Care** | Jarrett Eisenrich | Room 137

**Grief Share** | Greta Calvery | Room 138

**Re:generation** | Laura Bauer | Room 231

**Embrace Legacy** | John Fellers & Eric Brown | Room 272

**Embrace Grace** | Marilyn Bland | Room 273

**Empower** | Courtney Cordero & Jessica Bolding | 274

**Dwell 68:5** | Stephanie & Justin Barrett | Room 276

For more detail on any of these ministries, please visit [fbcbryan.org/midweek](http://fbcbryan.org/midweek).



