

2015 WOMEN'S RETREAT

*"From One Degree of
Glory to the Next"*

*Behold
Our God*



Women's Ministry

Grace Bible Church, 9115 Lorton Station Blvd., Lorton, VA 22079 ~~ www.gracebiblelorton.com

2015 WOMEN'S RETREAT

Welcome

Welcome, ladies, to the 2015 Grace Bible Church Women's Retreat. We are excited for this time and have been praying for each you. It is our hope that this weekend will bring glory to our Lord Jesus Christ as we worship and fellowship together in His Word. Welcome to Skycroft, we are thankful that you are here!

2015 Women's Retreat
Committee

Meet Our Speaker



MICHELLE HORTON

Michelle Horton lives in Northwest Washington, DC. She is a member of Restoration Church where she currently serves part-time on staff as a biblical counselor. She received her B.A. in Speech and

Communication Studies at Clemson

University and her M.Div. in Biblical

Counseling from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Prior to becoming a biblical counselor, Michelle pursued a career in television news for six years. It was when Michelle personally experienced the saving grace of Jesus Christ and his redemption in her own life that she first became interested in biblical counseling. She decided to study biblical counseling as a means of sharing Jesus Christ and the transforming power that only comes from walking with Him. Michelle enjoys counseling a wide variety of issues with a special interest in counseling women who struggle with addictions, eating disorders and depression. In her spare time, she enjoys running, water skiing, watching Clemson football and enjoying all the sites and scenery DC has to offer.

Psalm 115:4-9

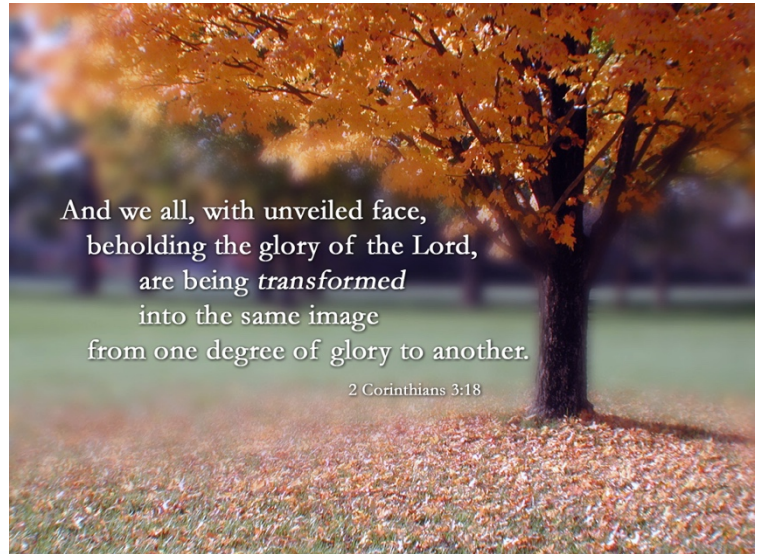
4But their idols are silver and gold,
made by human hands.

5They have mouths, but cannot
speak,
eyes, but cannot see.

6They have ears, but cannot hear,
noses, but cannot smell.

7They have hands, but cannot feel,
feet, but cannot walk,
nor can they utter a sound with their
throats.

8Those who make them will be like them,
and so will all who trust in them.



Slide 1

“We become what we behold.”--Marshall McLuhan, philosopher.

Slide 2

Behold

Sehnsucht (pronounced zeyn-zookht)

- Sehn: to long for, to shish, to yearn, to desire, to miss.
- Sehen: to see, to view, to watch, or to behold
- Sucht: a mania, an addiction, an obsession

Slide 3

Glory

Kabowd (pronounced Kaw-bode)

- weightiness
- honor, dignity
- splendor, abundance
- beauty within, goodness

SESSION 2 ~ SATURDAY MORNING

Holy, Holy, Holy. Beholding God.

Isaiah 6:1-7 and Psalm 103

Slide 1

"What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us." — [A.W. Tozer](#)

Francis Chan's Wonder of God Video Link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Ya12l036lg>

Slide 2

What Isaiah beholds:

- 1 God's holiness
- 2 His majesty
- 3 His power
- 4 His goodness

Slide 3

How does Isaiah respond?

- 1 Recognizes his powerlessness.
- 2 Confesses his great sin.
- 3 Acknowledges his need for mercy and forgiveness.

Discussion Questions:

1. What attributes of God stand out to you when you think of him?
2. Do you err more on the side of remembering his holiness or his grace? How does that impact your behavior?
3. What are some situations where you are tempted to forget God's greatness?

Saturday Morning Devotional

Begin with prayer.

Talk to God about what you have been learning about him from his Word. Ask him to help you see him as he is through your personal time in the Scriptures this morning and as you hear from his Word over the course of the weekend.

Read through the following passages, and meditate on 1) who God is and 2) how he views those who are in Christ:

Isaiah 6:1-7; Psalm 103; Ephesians 2:1-10; 1 Peter 2:9-10

What do these passages show you about God?

In what ways do they challenge you to adjust your view of God?

What would change about your life if you took these truths to heart?

What do these passages show you about yourself?

How do they challenge you to think differently about yourself?

What would change about your life if you took this to heart?

Consider this weekend in light of these passages and close your time with prayer.

It Is Finished. Beholding Jesus.

2 Corinthians 3:18-4:18, 2 Peter 1:17, & 1 Peter 2:9-10

Slide 1

It's all about the pursuit.

Slide 2

Three Glories of Christ:

- 1 His essential glory
- 2 His personal glory
- 3 His mediatorial glory

Slide 3

It is finished:

- 1 Our sin is removed.
- 2 We are reconciled to God.
- 3 We receive a new life (identity).
- 4 We are set free from the law.
- 5 We are promised immeasurable riches of grace.

Matt Papa's "It is Finished" Video Link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2LyKwgYhP6I>

Discussion Questions:

- 1. In what ways are you tempted to view yourself the way the world does?
- 2. What do you need to declare "FINISHED" in regards to the way you view yourself?
- 3. How is it possible for God to be well-pleased with you—even on your worst day? How could believing that truth change you?

SUNDAY DEVOTIONAL

Begin with prayer.

Talk to God about who he is and what his Word is teaching you. Pray that he would show you more of who he is and help you to respond to him in worship and obedience.

Read through the following passage (from the first session), and meditate on the sharp contrast between false gods and the living God:

Psalms 115:4-9

Over the course of this weekend, have you identified any false gods that you have been worshiping (perhaps unwittingly)? If so, name it/them here.

Now, take some time to compare this false god with the living God. In what specific ways is the living God far superior to this idol?

Take a moment to thank the Holy Spirit for revealing your sin to you, and to confess this misaimed worship to God. Fix your eyes on Jesus Christ and revel in the joy that if you are in him, it really is finished!

Read through the following passage and meditate on the ministry of the Holy Spirit:

John 16:5-15; 2 Corinthians 3:18

What do we learn from these passages about the Holy Spirit?

What are some specific ways that the Holy Spirit helps believers?

How have you experienced his help this weekend? For what specifically do you need to ask him for help as you head back home?

Consider your time this weekend, and what it looks like to bring these truths home to your life. Close your time with prayer.

SESSION 4 ~ SUNDAY MORNING

The Spirit of Truth. Beholding the Holy Spirit.

1 John 14:15-25

Slide 1

"Our final inheritance is this: that we will see the glory of God and praise him for it. We will see his glory, savor his glory, and show his glory."—John Piper

Slide 2

- 1 See His glory
- 2 Savor His glory
- 3 Show His glory

Slide 3

Michelle's Beach Pictures:





Slide 4

"Taste and see that the Lord is good. Blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him." —Psalm 34:8

"I am the LORD your God, who brought you up out of Egypt. Open wide your mouth and I will fill it." --Psalm 81:10

Slide 5

Three ways to Behold God

- 1 Through His Word
- 2 Through His church
- 3 Through creation

SESSION 4 ~ SUNDAY MORNING

Session 4 Video Link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g8vL3cN1fRc>

Discussion Questions:

1. Share ways that God has spoken to you this weekend.
2. What are some ways that your group can be praying for you?
3. What is one practical step that you can take to behold God once you return home?

MY REFLECTIONS

1. What has God been saying to me through his Word this weekend in the following areas?

a. My relationship with God

b. My relationships with other people, starting with those closest to me

c. My vocation and/or ministry

2. Was there a specific Scripture that spoke to me?

3. What can I do to bring what I learned home to my everyday life?

4. Is there a new friend I made or a friendship that deepened? If so, how can I further invest in this relationship?

5. What are some things that happened this weekend for which I want to thank God?

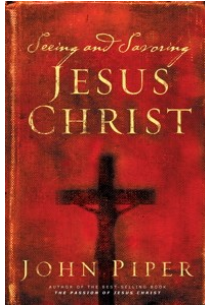
RESOURCES

Seeing and Savoring Jesus Christ by John Piper

Publisher's Description

Who is Jesus Christ?

You've never met him in person, and you don't know anyone who has. But there is a way to know who he is. How? Jesus Christ—the divine Person revealed in the Bible—has a unique excellence and a spiritual beauty that speaks directly to our souls and says, "Yes, this is truth." It's like seeing the sun and knowing that it is light, or tasting honey and knowing that it is sweet.



The depth and complexity of Jesus shatter our simple mental frameworks. He baffled proud scribes with his wisdom but was understood and loved by children. He calmed a raging storm with a word but would not get himself down from the cross.

Look at the Jesus of the Bible. Keep your eyes open, and fill them with the portrait of Jesus in God's Word. Jesus said, "If anyone's will is to do God's will, he will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own authority." Ask God for the grace to do his will, and you will see the truth of his Son.

John Piper has written this book in the hope that all will see Jesus for who he really is and will come to enjoy him above all else. Also available as a free pdf download at www.desiringgod.org/books.seeing-and-savoring-jesus-christ.

Look and Live: Behold the Soul-Thrilling, Sin-Destroying Glory of Christ by Matt Papa

Publisher's Description

Only One Addiction Can Set You Free

Matt Papa was a "professional Christian" in full-time ministry, ready and determined to change the world. All the while he was depressed, addicted to the approval of others, and enslaved to sin. But then everything changed. He encountered the glory of God.



All of us live in the tension between where we are and where we ought to be. We try our best to bully our desires into submission. And we all know, this is exhausting.

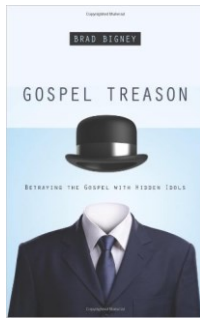
Are you tired? Stuck? Still fighting the same sin you've been fighting for years? The call in these pages is not to work or to strive, but to lift your eyes. You don't need more willpower. You need a vision of greatness that sweeps you off your feet. You need to see glory.

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

RESOURCES

Gospel Treason: Betraying the Gospel with Hidden Idols by Brad Bigney

Product Description

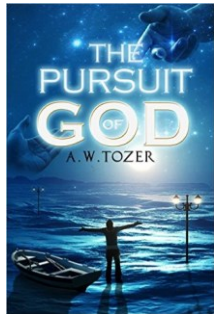


Is it harder for you to change and grow as a Christian than it should be? Do you wonder what is holding you back? Have you ever considered that it might be idolatry?

Using real-life stories and examples, Brad Bigney shows us how the idols we might not even recognize can still have devastating effects in our lives. In this transparent, honest book, he helps us to identify our idols, understand how they lead us to commit treason against the gospel— and finally repent of them and root them out forever by turning to the only One who can fill our every need.

The Pursuit of God by A.W. Tozer

Product Description

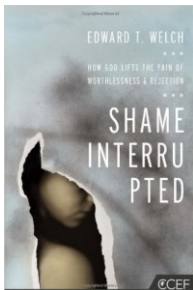


"As the heart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God."

This thirst for an intimate relationship with God, claims A.W. Tozer, is not for a select few, but should be the experience of every follower of Christ. But, he asserts, it is all too rare when believers have become conditioned by tradition to accept standards of mediocrity, and the church struggles with formality and worldliness. Using examples from Scripture and from the lives of saints who lived with this thirst for God, Tozer sheds light on the path to a closer walk with God.

Shame Interrupted: How God Lifts the Pain of Worthlessness and Rejection by Ed Welch

Product Description



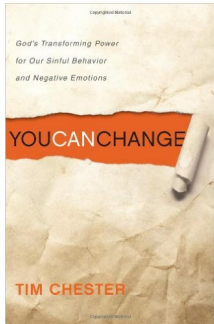
Shame controls far too many of us. Worthless, inferior, rejected, weak, humiliated, failure...it all adds up to wishing we could get away from others and hide. We know what shame feels like. The way out, however, is harder to find. Time doesn't help, neither does confession, because shame is just as often from what others do to you as it is from what you have done. But the Bible is about shame from start to finish, and, if we are willing, God's beautiful words break through. Look at Jesus through the lens of shame and see how the marginalized and worthless are his favorites and become his people. God cares for the shamed. Through Jesus you are covered, adopted, cleansed, and healed.

RESOURCES

You Can Change: God's Transforming Power for Our Sinful Behavior and Negative Emotions by Tim Chester

Product Description

It's about heart change, not behavior change. That's the conviction of Tim Chester as he seeks to help everyday Christians "connect the truth about God with our Monday-morning struggles."



This interactive book, laid out in workbook fashion, is for newer Christians struggling with sin and for more mature Christians who have plateaued in their faith as they seek to find victory over sin in their lives.

With a conviction that sanctification is God's work and the journey to holiness is joyful, Chester guides readers through a "change project"-beginning with the selection of one area of life they would like to modify.

Each chapter includes a question (e.g., Why would you like to change? What truths do you need to turn to?) to guide readers as they deal with a specific sin or struggle, truths from God's word, and a reflection guide to help readers through their change project.