



The Agros Conference

“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.” – Matthew 13:44

The One Who Hides the Treasure

“At that time Jesus declared, ‘I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.’” – Matthew 11:25-26

Riverbend Bible Church
Atchison, KS
November 4, 2023



Welcome to the 3rd annual Agros conference! Agros is a fellowship that exists to find, train, and support pastors for small-town churches in northeast Kansas and northwest Missouri. If you would like to learn about other aspects of our fellowship, please visit our website: agrosfellowship.com. Just by sacrificing the time to join and strengthen our fellowship today, you have already been an encouragement to us. We have been praying for the Lord to use today's conference as an encouragement to our faithful, joyful sacrifices for the heavenly treasure hidden in the Lord's harvest fields.

Jesus taught in Matthew 13:44 that, when his kingdom comes to earth, it is hidden in something that appears very ordinary: a field, an *agros*. We believe his kingdom is still hidden today in ordinary places, often called the ordinary means of grace: The Word, prayer, fellowship, and the ordinances. And so, those who have found his hidden treasure should be marked by devotion to these ordinary things (Acts 2:42).

Our degree of devotion to these ordinary means of grace is driven by our answer to this question: *why* is the treasure of his kingdom hidden in such ordinary places? And is the reason negotiable? If we can come up with more extraordinary, sensational ways to showcase his kingdom, why shouldn't we? *Why* is the treasure hidden?

We believe the treasure is hidden *because of who our God is*.

As Jesus said in Matthew 11:25-26, God is the one who has hidden these things. And he has done so because of who he is, because of the gracious nature of his will. Our conference aims to increase our churches' devotion to these ordinary means of grace by proclaiming who our God is: He is The One Who Hides the Treasure. After today, we want to be more devoted to biblical preaching, singing, prayers, and fellowship, because these are the ways that faith seeks The One Who Hides the Treasure. We pray you will pick up this vision for today's conference and use our time of fellowship to encourage and be encouraged in these truths.

Today's Schedule

Bold items are located in the main sanctuary

8:00 9:00... Registration, breakfast, and fellowship

9:00 9:15... Welcome and singing

9:15 10:15... Session 1: "The God of Glory Hides the Treasure"

10:15 10:30... Break w/ singing

10:30 11:30... Session 2: "The God of Aseity Hides the Treasure"

11:30 1:00... Lunch Break

1:00 1:15... Regathering and singing

1:15 2:15... Session 3: "The God of Sovereignty Hides the Treasure"

2:15 3:15... Session 4: "The Humility That Seeks the Treasure: Prayer"

3:15 3:30... Regathering and singing

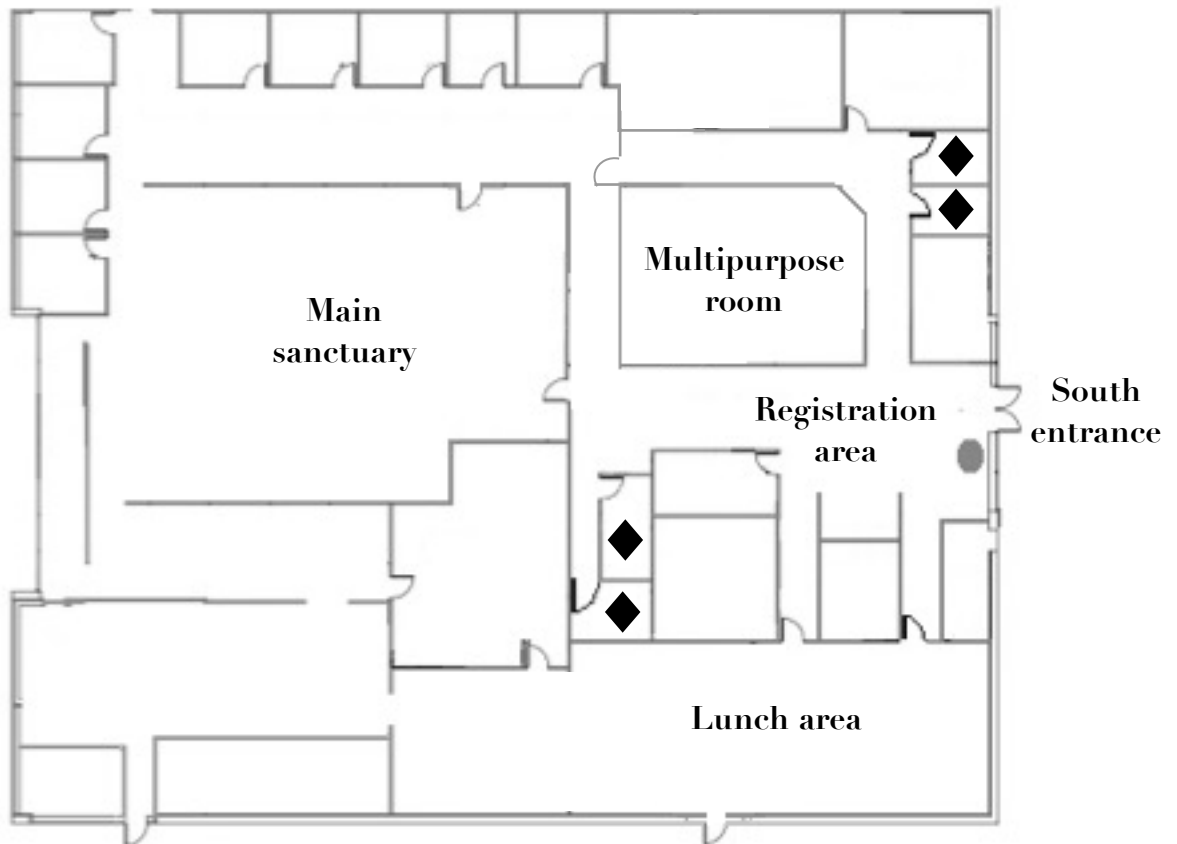
3:30 4:30... Session 5: "The God of Grace Hides the Treasure"

4:30... Closing announcements and concluding songs

Please do not park in the Holiday Inn Express parking lot marked below.



Note the building map and restrooms indicated by black diamonds below.



About today's book: *Knowing God*

Below is an excerpt of a review by Sam Storms

Full article at www.desiringgod.org/articles/knowning-god

“Packer had little patience for those who would speak of the Christian life or spirituality without regard for the centrality of God. For there to be life-giving heat in the affections of the heart, there must first be biblical light imparted to the mind. This was Packer’s way of reminding us that a biblically informed, cognitive grasp of the revelation of God and his attributes is foundational to everything in Christianity. To allow God to ‘become remote,’ said Packer, to ‘look at God, so to speak, through the wrong end of the telescope, so reducing him to pigmy proportions,’ can only result in ‘pigmy Christians’ who fail to grow up into the fullness of Christ Jesus (12). Did Packer overstate his case? Is this little more than theological hyperbole? Hardly... Packer is always diligent to remind his readers that knowing God is not a means to some higher, more ultimate, more soul-satisfying end. We don’t pursue the knowledge of God ‘in order that . . .’ to be filled in with some lesser goal, such as a more robust sense of self-esteem or more power and respect in the local church or greater earthly wealth. Packer’s prayer for all who endeavored to read him is identical to that of the apostle Paul, who prayed that the Ephesians might receive ‘the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him’ (Ephesians 1:17) that is, in the knowledge of God and all that he is for us in Jesus Christ...”



Read the full article here

Songs for Today

“All Creatures of Our God and King”

“All People That on Earth Do Dwell”

“Amazing Grace”

“And Can It Be That I Should Gain”

“Be Thou My Vision”

“Doxology”

“God Moves in a Mysterious Way”

“God of Grace and God of Glory”

“How Sweet and Awesome Is the Place”

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

“Receive the Glory”

“Psalm 29”

Session 1 Notes:
“The God of Glory Hides the Treasure”
2 Corinthians 4:1-7

Session 2 Notes:
“The God of Aseity Hides the Treasure”
Acts 17:24-25

Session 3 Notes:
“The God of Sovereignty Hides the Treasure”

Session 4 Notes:

“The Humility That Seeks the Treasure: Prayer”

List the churches represented in your group:

Pray for *humility in* these churches to seek the treasure:

More humbled by his glory, aseity, sovereignty, and grace Isa. 2:12-17

More humbly attentive to his Word Isa. 66:1-2

More humbly dependent in prayer 1 Kin. 18:36-39

More humbly invested in their fellowship 1 Cor. 3:5-9

Pray for *revelation to* these churches of the treasure:

More increase in their knowledge of God Col. 1:9-12

More application of their knowledge of God Jer. 9:23-24

Pray for *love in* these churches to share the treasure:

More loving initiative with unbelievers Acts 20:18-21

More loving clarity with the gospel Acts 4:12

More loved, lost sheep brought home Luke 15:4-7

Session 5 Notes:
“The God of Grace Hides the Treasure”
Matthew 11:25-26; 13:31-46

Continued Fellowship Opportunities

Take a new friend to dinner at a nearby restaurant

- Paolucci's 113 S 3rd Street
- Willie's 701 Commercial Street
- Pete's Steak House 618 Commercial Street
- Maria Mexican 801 Commercial Street
- Lopez De Mexico 112 S 6th Street
- Multiple fast food options!

Enroll in an e-mail list

- Receive prayer updates for the Agros ministry
- Receive fellowship event reminders for the Agros ministry
- E-mail director@agrosfellowship.com to enroll

Express interest in the Agros "Farm Team" or an internship

- The "Farm Team" meets quarterly for fellowship and supports local churches with pulpit supply
- Internships adapt ministry training to your location and situation
- E-mail director@agrosfellowship.com to learn more

Request pulpit supply

- Agros organizes pulpit supply for churches without pastors and for pastors in need of respite
- Email director@agrosfellowship.com if interested

Consider attending an upcoming Agros workshop

- 4-8-hour practical training events that focus on various aspects of gospel ministry
- Visit agrosfellowship.com/events to see past and upcoming events, or enroll in the fellowship event reminder e-mail list