



ENCOUNTERS
with **JESUS**

WELCOME TO GRACE UNION

WHAT'S HAPPENING TODAY
SUNDAY, MAY 21, 2017

- ➔ Praise & Worship
- ➔ Welcome/Announcements
- ➔ Offering
- ➔ Message: Pastor Bob Poley



Thank you for joining us today. We're glad you're here. If this is your first time with us, please visit the Welcome table in the front lobby. We have a gift for you and would like to meet you.

NEWS & EVENTS

GU SMALL GROUPS

MEN'S BREAKFAST - Saturday, 5/27

All men are invited out for breakfast once a month at various St. Louis area restaurants. Come on out at 8 a.m. Saturday to Golden Corral here on Lindbergh. Contact Glenn Adams at glennmadams81@gmail.com.



All GU Ladies and Guests!! Lets get together **Saturday, June 10th for High Tea!!** We will meet at Sisters Tea House in Fenton at 1 p.m. It is a fun, elegant experience, and we will be served a variety of lovely tea sandwiches and desserts, accompanied by an assortment of teas to choose from! How fun! We will, of course, have a few games and a small devotional.

Our GU Ladies events are intended for women of Grace Union to grow together as a sisterhood of friends! We would love to see you there!! ♥

Cost \$20pp. Please RSVP by 4th June, to Ashley Daniels in person, at ashleydaniels1137@gmail.com, or 314.403.3821.

HOSPITALITY MINISTRY

In the next few weeks the Hospitality Ministry will begin planning our first all-church picnic on our new lawn Sunday, July 2nd! If you haven't signed up for the Hospitality Ministry yet, but are interested in helping, please let Karen know. You can talk to her today, or email her at karenmomma@live.com.



A promotional poster for 'Breakaway Kids Camp '17'. The background is a light teal color. At the top left is a yellow smiley face wearing black sunglasses. To its right, the text 'Breakaway' is in yellow, 'kids camp' is in a larger, grey, hand-drawn font, and ''17' is in a large, dark grey, hand-drawn font. Below this, it says 'COMPLETED 1st-6th GRADE' in grey, 'JUNE 19-23' in a large grey font, and 'REG. 5/2-15 \$225 after 5/15 \$250' in grey. At the bottom, there is a row of seven yellow smiley faces with various expressions: laughing, smiling, smiling with a tear, smiling, crying with a tear, laughing, and smiling.

If you would like your child to go to camp this year, registration is open at ilsmonline.org! Registration is \$250 (payable to Grace Union). This year's camp leaders and their contact information are:

- *Girls completing 1st-2nd grade:* Carrie Clifton - lcclifton@aol.com
- *Girls completing 3rd-6th:* Stacey Bush - newagainexteriors@gmail.com
- *Boys completing 3rd-6th:* Pastor Bob Poley - bobpoley78@gmail.com



Hygiene Items

May

OUR MISSION

We are helping people to live in union with Christ by grace.

- Union with God through a relationship with Jesus Christ.
- Union with Others through investing in people through Biblical community.
- Union with Ourselves with a wholeness found in a new identity in Christ.
- Union with our Broken World by being an agent of change in our society by caring for and serving those who are poor, oppressed or marginalized.

We value sharing the love, life and power of God to our communities and world, joining Christ in his mission to rescue fallen humanity.

WAYS TO CONNECT



For any special needs, please email our Prayer Team at gucprayer@gmail.com.

WAYS TO GIVE



ENVELOPE

Offering or Giving Box



TEXT TO GIVE

Text GIVE to 314.888.5188



ONLINE

graceunionstl.org

MAILING ADDRESS

3900 Union Road, St. Louis, MO 63125

Visit us online to learn more about Grace Union at graceunionstl.org.

All of our message recordings can also be found on our website.



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ENCOUNTERS WITH JESUS

PART 4: TOUCHING LEPERS

Matthew 8:1-4

- 1 When Jesus came down from the mountainside, large crowds followed him.
- 2 A man with leprosy came and knelt before him and said, "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean."
- 3 Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" Immediately he was cleansed of his leprosy.
- 4 Then Jesus said to him, "See that you don't tell anyone. But go, show yourself to the priest and offer the gift Moses commanded, as a testimony to them."

- Jesus is coming down from delivering the Sermon on the Mount.
- In Matthew 5:17-48, Jesus makes this series of statements that show HOW HIGH THE STANDARD REALLY IS.

I. Jesus started his ministry off by clarifying just how sinful all of us are.

- A. As religious people anytime our definition of sin flatters us rather than confronting us, we are missing the point.
 - The law of God was not given to congratulate, but to communicate to us where we really are.
 - And to demonstrate our need of Jesus our Savior.
- B. Romans 3:23 says that "ALL have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God."

II. Jesus speaks clearly about the evil of sin, and then he reaches out his hand to touch the sinner.

- A. In doing this, he entered the lepers problem with them.
 - They would either be Clean together or Leprous together.
- B. Jesus is so committed to rescuing and restoring sinners, that when he touched this Leper, he Locked the fate of Leper to his own.

- C. In the Bible, Jesus is very clear about sin. He does not pull his punches to keep from offending us or hurting our feelings.
- But the moment we Repent and ask him to make us clean, He reaches across the line with no concern for how our filth impacts him.

1 John 1:8-9

- 8 If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.
- 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.
- D. The question is not whether we will sin, or even what kind of sin, the question is **will we confess and repent?**
- E. The problem is that often instead of repenting we try to Justify ourselves or somehow frame our position to make it acceptable.
- F. When we admit our sin and throw ourselves on the mercy of Jesus, his response is shocking.
- Repentance is always met with the embrace of Jesus.

III. Sin robs us of our ability to feel and discern.

- A. Perhaps one of the most dangerous effects of sin is THE NUMBING EFFECT.

Hebrews 3:12-13

- 12 See to it, brothers and sisters, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God.
- 13 But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called "Today," so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.
- Sin desensitizes us to the guilt we should feel for sin.
 - Sin desensitizes us to the negative impacts of our sin.
 - Sin desensitizes us to the working and voice of God in our lives.
- B. Sadly, many people live in a desensitized spiritually numb state because we become comfortable with, and accept sin in our lives.

Ezekiel 36:25-26

- 25 I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols.
- 26 I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.

C. The most remarkable miracle Jesus performs is restoring desensitized Spirits.

- Through the process of Repentance, Jesus reverses the Numbing effect of sin on our Spiritual Senses.

The key to being what God intends you to be, IS A SENSITIVE HEART.

As followers of Jesus we should permanently position ourselves in repentance.

- **If we are seeing things clearly, his law will not congratulate us; it confronts us.**

But when we respond with repentance, Jesus reaches across the division caused by our sin, Rescuing us and Restoring our Hearts.

Thank you for joining us today. This, and all of our message recordings, can be found on our website, graceunionstl.org.

THIS WEEK

Visit us online for information about these events and more.
graceunionsil.org or facebook.com/graceunionsil

MONDAY (5/22)

Alcoholics Anonymous (GU Family Room) - 7 pm
(Led by Jeff Hall - 314.620.6635)

TUESDAY (5/23)

WEDNESDAY (5/24)

Drive-By Prayer (Main Auditorium) - 4-7 pm
GU Students (Youth Auditorium) - 6:30 pm

THURSDAY (5/25)

FRIDAY (5/26)

SATURDAY (5/27)

Men's Breakfast (Golden Corral) - 8 am

SUNDAY (5/28)

GU Small Groups

M&M Village Women's Group (Conf. Room B) - 9 am
Men Alive in Christ (Conf. Room C) - 9 am

Adults/Students Service (Main Aud.) - 10 am
GU Kids (Early Childhood-Elementary) - 10 am

SAVE THE DATES

6/12-16 - Youth Camp

6/19-20 - Kids Camp

6/25 - Summer Series Begins

7/2 - Church BBQ

OUR STAFF IS HERE TO SERVE YOU

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