

Welcome  
to



**GraceUnion**  
CHURCH

Encountering Grace through Jesus, right where we are.  
Being moved by Grace toward all God has for us.

**3900 Union Rd, St. Louis, MO 63125 | [graceunionstl.org](http://graceunionstl.org)**  
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# WELCOME TO GRACE UNION

Thank you for joining us today! If it's your first time here, please stop by the Connect Center in the lobby for a free gift. We'd love to meet you.

## GU News & Events

### GU SUMMER SERIES - "AHA"

It's never too late to join a small group to dig deeper into our current "AHA" series. You can find more information about the current groups in the lobby. Books are also available for \$5.

### DESIGNED FOR LIFE WOMEN'S RETREAT

Registration for this year's women's retreat in Springfield begins today! **FULL payment must be made at the registration table only. JULY EARLY BIRD COST is \$235** and includes the conference and hotel. You can also sign up next week. There will be other opportunities to register in August and September as well.

### MEMBERSHIP MEETING - Next Sunday

If you'd like to find out more about GU, or are interested in joining in membership, stay with us after service next Sunday!



Beginning next Sunday, we will have a special GU Prayer Journal available to guide you through 21 Days of Prayer, the gospel of John, and the Lord's Prayer. They will be available in the lobby for \$3. It is our hope that as you grow in the practice of prayer, that your faith be multiplied and your personal relationship with God is deepened and becomes more intimate.

### OCC CHRISTMAS IN JULY

We'd like to inspire everyone to support Operation Christmas Child by bringing in school supplies for the fall packing party next Sunday! Contact Christine Pahner with any questions at [craftycrispy@yahoo.com](mailto:craftycrispy@yahoo.com).

### REGIONAL HOUSE PARTIES

Get to know your GU neighbors with our Regional House Parties! Find your region on the schedule below, mark your calendar, and bring a snack to share if able. If not, that's ok. Don't let that stop you from coming!

	<b>August 3</b> <i>(Region 2)</i>	<b>August 31</b> <i>(Region 3)</i>	<b>September 14</b> <i>(Region 1)</i>
<b>Zip Codes</b>	63010, 63129	63125, 63111, 62236, 62206	63012, 63052, 63048, 63028, 63070, 62225, 63050
<b>Hosts</b>	Bill & Karen Fain	Chris & Shelly Kilburn	Ricky & Kelley Pipkins
<b>Address</b>	6299 Whisper Bend Dr. St. Louis, MO 63129	3020 Kreindheder Ct. St. Louis, MO 63125	1534 Mammoth Ln. Imperial, MO 63052

# WAYS TO CONNECT



**SUNDAYS @ 10AM**  
**WEDNESDAYS @ 6:30pm**  
Nursery—Elementary



**PRAYER NEEDS**  
Email: [gucprayer@gmail.com](mailto:gucprayer@gmail.com)



**SUNDAYS (Middle School) @ 10:15**  
**WEDNESDAYS (Gr 6-12) @ 6:30PM**



**SUNDAYS**  
Adults Group @ 9am  
Afternoon Home Groups  
**WEDNESDAYS @ 6:30PM**



## **CONNECTION CARD**

If you're new to GU, want prayer, or need to update your info, fill out a Connection Card, and put it in the Offering or the Giving Box in the lobby.

## **STAY CONNECTED**



@graceunionstl | #graceunionstl

## **LISTEN ONLINE**



**ONLINE AUDIO**  
[graceunionstl.org/multimedia](http://graceunionstl.org/multimedia)

## **WAYS TO GIVE**



**ENVELOPE**  
Offering/Giving Box



**TEXT TO GIVE**  
314.888.5188



**ONLINE**  
[graceunionstl.org](http://graceunionstl.org)

# PRAYPURSUEPARTY



# AHA Part 5: Immediate Action

*Luke 15:17-20*

- 17 When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death!  
18 I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.  
19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.'  
20 **So he got up and went to his father.**

- Unless you act, Aha moments end up being nothing more than emotional roller coasters.
- There is such a danger of getting stuck "Flirting with Change" instead of following through and having a full on Aha moment.
- In Luke 15 the Prodigal son realizes that he can't stay where he is.
  - But here is where it gets real.
  - Luke 15:20 says, "**He got up.**"

## **I. When we go from contemplation to action something profoundly spiritual takes place.**

- A. Getting up is simply that first REAL STEP away from where you are and toward where you need to be.
- B. You will never Tweak your way out of Trouble. You have to Get Up, and move away from where you are toward The Father.
- The Bible calls this Repentance.

## **II. Question: What does it take to get to the point of action?**

- A. When the delusion is gone and you are awake to what your sin actually resulted in; and when you can see past the present into the future God has for you, it makes immediate action possible.

## **III. We have to know who is waiting for us and how he responds to our movement in his direction.**

*Luke 15:20-24*

- 20 So he got up and went to his father. "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.
- 21 "The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'
- 22 "But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet.
- 23 Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate.
- 24 For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.

- A. One major reason Jesus tells this story is to correct our assumption about how God responds to us when we crawl back.
- B. Instead of what the son deserved, look at all the father did:  
- He ran to him. - Put his arms around him. - Put a robe on him.  
- Put a ring on his finger. - Put Shoes on his feet  
- Threw a party.
- C. The freedom that he sought through sin, rebellion, and distance from the father was finally realized in his submission to his father.

**IV. We cannot journey back to God under our own ability. We move toward God and he responds by covering the distance.**

*James 4:8* – Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.

- A. Jesus told the story in such a way to make the point that we must come to a place of Repentance and Action.
- We must GET UP and move back TOWARD GOD.
  - But the beauty is that once you do, even though you are STILL A LONG WAY OFF, **He runs to where you are.**

# SAVE THE DATES



7/28	Men's Breakfast
7/29	Membership Meeting
7/29	Ladies Retreat Registration Day
7/30	Food Addicts Anonymous
8/5	Healthcare & Safety Team Meetings
8/12	Baptisms
8/17-18	GU Students Back-to-School Lock-in
8/18	GU Students Engage the Campus
8/19	Who We Are Lunch
8/20-25	Week of Fasting & Prayer
9/2	Labor Day BBQ

\* See [graceunionstl.org](http://graceunionstl.org) or [Facebook.com/graceunionstl](https://www.facebook.com/graceunionstl) for details about these and other GU Events! \*

## OUR STAFF IS HERE TO SERVE YOU

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