

August 8, 2004

Good morning!

If you are new to Grace, we extend a special welcome. Relax. Don't feel any obligation to give monetarily...you are our guest!

Grace Community is a new kind of church focused on finding. Finding God. Finding hope and truth. Finding forgiveness in Jesus Christ. Finding relationships and personal growth in an open creative church.

The emphasis at Grace is twofold: be a church home for non-churched people and provide Christ followers a rich environment for spiritual growth.

The pastor's name is Dave. You can reach him at the church (373-1271) or online at dave@findinggrace.com.

The audio of today's message is available online (findinggrace.com) or at the information table in the lobby.

*Our mission is to **experience** the grace of God in our lives
and to **extend** the grace of God to our community.*

Grace Midweek is coming up Wednesday, August 18th at 7 pm. All are welcome to join in communion and an information and Questions/Answer session related to the new collaboration with Grace Mahomet.

God has used a lot of "Average Joes" to do incredible things. Next week we continue the "Average Joe" series, an overview of several normal people from the Bible who made a difference in the kingdom. Remember, it starts at 10:45! Our speaker will be Mark Carpenter. The "Average Joe" is Bezalel, a simple craftsman used by God.

Grace Youth Group Activity: August 21st, at 10 am the youth group will be meeting at Canterbury Ridge to enjoy activities with senior citizens. They will then meet at Grace for pizza and a movie at noon.

Digging Deeper This Week:

Monday: Read through the genealogies in Matthew 1 and Luke 3 and notice the names in those lists along with Judah's. Thank God for people who have impacted your life.

Tuesday: Read the whole story of Judah's relationship with Tamar in Genesis 38. What mistakes were made that we can learn from as well?

Wednesday: Read Genesis 49, the blessings of the twelve sons of Jacob. Notice the uniqueness of each blessing, especially Judah's.

Thursday: Read Proverbs 7. Remember Judah's big flaws.

Friday: Read Genesis 44 and note Judah's different spirit and attitude toward Joseph. Ask God to reveal changes He wants to make in you this week.

Average Joe

"Judah: The Brother"

Results for Judah:

1. He learned to live in _____, not deception.

Then Judah said to Israel his father, "Send the boy along with me and we will go at once, so that we and you and our children may live and not die. I myself will guarantee his safety; you can hold me personally responsible for him. If I do not bring him back to you and set him here before you, I will bear the blame before you all my life."
Genesis 43:8-9 NIV

2. He began to be seen for his _____, not his inadequacies.

Judah, your brothers will praise you; your hand will be on the neck of your enemies; your father's sons will bow down to you.
Genesis 49:8 NIV

3. He left a _____ that would last for eternity.

The scepter (*meaning the kingly line*) will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, and the obedience of the nations is his. He will tether his donkey to a vine, his colt to the choicest branch; he will wash his garments in wine, his robes in the blood of grapes. His eyes will be darker than wine, his teeth whiter than milk.
Genesis 49:10-12 NIV

...for the LORD Almighty will care for his flock, the house of Judah...
 From Judah will come the cornerstone...

Zechariah 10:3-4 NIV

For it is clear that our Lord descended from Judah...

Hebrews 7:14 NIV

...See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed...

Revelations 5:5 NIV

What can we learn from Judah?

1. We must not let our past _____ us.

"What can we say to my lord?" Judah replied. "What can we say? How can we prove our innocence? God has uncovered your servants' guilt. We are now my lord's slaves—we ourselves and the one who was found to have the cup."
Genesis 44:16 NIV

2. We must ask God and even dream about what _____ He wants to leave through us.

3. We must _____ somewhere.

Now then, please let your servant remain here as my lord's slave in place of the boy, and let the boy return with his brothers.
Genesis 44:33 NIV