

September 12, 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.*

Saturday, September 18 is the Fellowship of Christian Athletes Game Day at Memorial Stadium, and the Grace Youth Group is going to the Illini game! Register by contacting Bruce or Vicki Lewey by September 5 at 766-5211 or 356-3502. The cost is \$20 per person for a T-shirt and game ticket. If you want food be sure to bring extra money that day. Meet at the Lewey house by 8 am on game day. Registration is at Huff Hall at 10 am with a rally at 11 am with Jim Wood and the Vineyard Worship Band, as well as the Illini Drumline and Cheerleaders. The game kick-off is at 1 pm.

The next Women's Connection event *Get Connected* will be September 18 at **9am** (please note the change in time). Connect with other women of Grace Community in a study of "The Bad Girls of the Bible". A light breakfast will be served. Please call Maureen Frogley at 369-5898 if you need childcare.

Small Group sign up will be the next two Sundays. Get information and sign up at the table in the lobby next Sunday.

Small Group leaders are needed. Indicate your interest in being a leader on your card as well. Also mark your calendar for the Small Group Leaders meeting on Wednesday, September 15th, 6-6:45 pm.

Digging Deeper This Week:

Monday: Read 2 Samuel 17:21-29. Consider how encouraging it must have been for David to receive all these gifts from Barzillai et al.

Tuesday: Read 2 Samuel 19:31-40. Note all the ways Barzillai provided for David.

Wednesday: Read 1 Kings 2:1-12 and note the heritage of Barzillai.

Thursday: Read Acts 20:17-38. How was Paul a giver like Barzillai?

Friday: Read Matthew 10:5-42. Note the ways in which Jesus is encouraging us to be givers.

Average Joe

Barzillai: The Giver

The story – II Samuel 17:27-29

The story – II Samuel 19:34-39

So all the people crossed the Jordan, and then the king crossed over. The king kissed Barzillai and gave him his blessing, and Barzillai returned to his home. *II Samuel 19:39 (NIV)*

The story – I Kings 2:5-9

"But show kindness to the sons of Barzillai of Gilead and let them be among those who eat at your table. They stood by me when I fled from your brother Absalom. *I Kings 2:7 (NIV)*

The story - Nehemiah 7:63

And from among the priests: the descendants of Hobaiah, Hakkoz and Barzillai (a man who had married a daughter of Barzillai the Gileadite and was called by that name). *Nehemiah 7:63 (NIV)*

The heart of a giver

But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. *Matthew 6:3-4 (NIV)*

As you go, preach this message: 'The kingdom of heaven is near.' Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give. *Matthew 10:7-8 (NIV)*

In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: "It is more blessed to give than to receive." *Acts 20:35 (NIV)*

The life of a giver