

CHURCH CHANGES WEEK 1 (9/10/17)

DAY 1: Acts 2:1-36

- Imagine what it was like to see this physical demonstration of the filling of the Holy Spirit— what did God do to make sure the gospel was heard by people from all over the known world?
- In his sermon, how did Peter use Old Testament writings to show Jesus is the messiah?
- To investigate this more, use study notes in your Bible, a Bible dictionary or commentary or biblehub.com.

DAY 2: Acts 2:36-39

- After hearing Peter's sermon, what was the people's reaction?
- We know just coming to church will not change a person. What needs to happen in a person's heart to make him/her see the need for Jesus and accept His promise of forgiveness?
- Pray: Ask God to change the hearts of those you are inviting to church. Ask Him to 'cut their hearts' and 'call them to Himself' so they can make the decision to follow Jesus.

DAY 3: John 17:13-21

- This was part of the last prayer Jesus prayed for His followers before He went to the cross. In vs. 20 He says He is praying for us, too. What does He pray in vs. 21?
- Why does Jesus say our unity as believers AND our unity with Him and the Father is so important?
- What do you think it means for us to "all be one" and how can this happen?
- Is there something keeping you from "being one" with another believer(s)? Pray for them, and ask God to change your heart if necessary.

DAY 4: 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; 2 Corinthians 5:17-20

- After we admit our sin and accept Jesus' gift of forgiveness how are we changed?
- The Holy Spirit does that work of changing our lives, but how does the church support His work?
- How can you personally cooperate with the Holy Spirit's work in your life?

DAY 5: Colossians 1:25-29; Matthew 12:15-21

- Paul said he was a minister to the church at Colossae to proclaim a mystery—what was the mystery?
- Christ in us is our hope. How does the church share and show the hope of Christ to the world around us? How does your life show Christ's hope to those around you?

- Listen to the worship song “Hope of The World” by Hillsong Live (search on YouTube) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rvR6qHWzFzY> and pray that you and all believers (the church) will continue to point people to Jesus.

CHURCH CHANGES WEEK 2 (9/17/17)

DAY 1: Acts 16

- There are three accounts in Acts 16 of households who have faith. How are these accounts similar? How are each different?
- What was Paul’s message? (see verses 10, 31) Why does that message have the power to save whole families?
- What questions do you have about this chapter? (Think: Who, What, Where, When, Why, How) To investigate these, use the study notes in your Bible, a Bible dictionary or commentary, or www.biblehub.com.

DAY 2: Acts 16:1; 2 Timothy 1:5, 3:14-17

- From whom did Timothy learn faith?
- Why is it important that Timothy was taught the Scriptures? What power does the Word of God contain?
- Consider **1 Timothy 1:2** and **2 Timothy 1:2**. What encouragement do you find in these verses if you did not learn about faith in your own home as a child?

DAY 3: Colossians 3:12-21

- Reading verses 18-21 in light of verses 12-17, what picture forms in your mind of a Christian home?
- How would you describe your family growing up? How would you describe your family today from your perspective (as a parent, or son/daughter)?
- God can change even the hardest heart, even the most broken family. Spend some time seeking God: Where do you need to forgive or seek forgiveness? How can God equip you to begin to be the change in your family?

DAY 4: Deuteronomy 11:1, 18-19; 2 Timothy 1:2, 5

- What are God’s instructions in Deuteronomy 11 concerning loving and obeying the Lord within the family?
- Practically speaking, what would it look like to daily model these commands?
- Who are you “raising” in the faith? How is God using you to influence your family or to influence someone else who can bring change to their family?

DAY 5: Acts 16

- Reflect again on what you have read and journaled this week.
- What is your next step to strengthening your family?

- Spend some time praising God for family, confessing where your example is not godly, thanking Him for His grace and love, asking Him to help you lead and influence so that family and others may know Him.

*For additional marriage and family resources visit www.familylife.com or www.focusonthefamily.org. Also, check out the marriage mentoring at Grace church and the upcoming Marriage Seminar on October 14.

CHURCH CHANGES WEEK 2 (9/17/17)

Day 1: Acts 5:12-16; Psalm 86:11-13

- In spite of witnessing miraculous signs and wonders, “none dared join them”. What are our modern-day risks and fears as we work to become fully devoted followers of Christ?
- Do you believe that Erie (and its surrounding communities) can be changed? As you read through the book of Acts, what similarities can we identify with the first church and our work to serve Erie? What will be our challenges?
- Take a few minutes to ask God how your gifts, passions and resources may equip you for service to Erie. Write down anything that comes to mind.

Day 2: Acts 6:1-7

- Grace Church and McLane Church have placed a high priority on serving those in need in Erie. How are these large and growing churches especially positioned to offer support to our region?
- Our reading in Acts 6 offers a very specific example of the early church rising up to meet a need. How can you and your family move from “ears and rears” to becoming the hands and feet of Jesus?
- Pray again over the list you made on day one.

Day 3: Acts 18:8-11

- How do God’s words to Paul in verses 9-12 encourage us as we as a church serve where He has called- in the Erie region?
- As we redemptively engage in the culture of our region, we are called to:
 - celebrate what is admirable
 - restore what is dysfunctional and broken
 - stand against what is evil
- What specific things can you celebrate and work to redeem?

Day 4: 2 Corinthians 8:1-15

- Paul tells the Corinthians about the generous giving of the churches in Macedonia (Philippi, Thessalonica, Berea). How does Paul describe their generosity and why is it so striking?
- Create a plan for how you can serve the community. For example: the primary way in which Grace church serves Erie is through Serve Erie. Visit www.serverie.com to find opportunities to get involved.
- Reviewing your list from day one and day two, take a few minutes to praise God for the gifts and resources he has provided you that will enable you to serve.

Day 5: Acts 1-28

- Break it up in to several days or several readings if necessary. As you read consider the similarities and differences in this first church and the churches you have attended.
- Write down the inarguable truths about God's plan for the Church and its service to all of mankind.

For an overview of the book of Acts and the early church, watch two short videos on Right Now Media: <https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/Series/181310#48> (For RNM access email aaron@whoisgrace.com).