

**HEADS UP SUNDAY:** Easter Sunday was a wonderful day with 532 present for a celebration of the resurrection of our Lord. Thanks to all who invited and welcomed guests. This Sunday is going to be another very special day with our very own Wes Bender preaching a powerful message you won't want to miss. John & Rocky will be with our youth on the annual Spring Breakaway. Kurt will be on vacation after running the half marathon on Saturday in Nashville with Scott Genry, Drew Leppert & Alec Johnston. Cheer them on! **SO...NO STAFF IN THE BUILDING ON SUNDAY!** All the bases should be covered with volunteers but everyone should be on the lookout for anything or anyone that might need some attention and try to help out. Wes plans to have several visitors coming to hear his message, so make sure they all are greeted and welcomed warmly. One or more of our Shepherds will be in the foyer before or after service if there are any special needs. Thanks for being family!

**REMINDER:** Go to <http://happenings.gracechapelchurch.com/> to view this week's bulletin, order of worship and songs we will enjoy together. Stay connected!

## **CHOOSING YOUR PAST WISELY THE CHOICE IS ONE OF WHO WE ARE VS WHO WE ARE NOT**

**BIG IDEA:** Our God cares more about who we are rather than who we are not

### **ICE BREAKER**

1. When in your life have you used or heard the term "DO OVER"? How old were you and what were the circumstances?

For the next two questions, you can choose an event you would like to do differently or an event you would simply like to live again:

2. If you could "DO OVER" one day in your past what would it be? Why?
3. If you could "DO OVER" one season of life (i.e. childhood/middle and high school/college/newly married, etc.) in your past, what season would you choose? Why?
4. Did most people choose an event they would do differently? Why or why not?
5. What is one experience from your past that you believe affects how you choose to act today?

### **THINK**

1. What do you like/dislike about your past?
2. Does the "past" spoken about through stories in the Bible affect how you act day to day? How?
3. What are the gifts and talents you believe God has given to you? Be confident in your responses – have your small group help you if you are having trouble thinking.

### **EXAMINE**

Read **Galatians 4:8-11** and discuss the following questions.

1. How much of the past do you allow to define your present and your future?
2. What elements of the past would you want to define your present and your future (think about past elements even before you were born)
3. Do you find yourself or know of anyone in any of these circumstances:
  - a. Living off of past successes
  - b. Burdened by past mistakes

Read **Acts 2:14-47** and discuss the following questions:

4. What chain of events have happened to lead to this event in the Bible?
5. Who is speaking in this passage?
6. Who is the audience?
7. What is significant about the past of the speaker?
8. What is significant about the past of the audience?
9. How does the speaker connect the past of the audience to the present and future?
10. In the same way, how do we connect the elements of our past to the past of those we work with, live with and meet day to day?

**THIS WEEK:** In **Acts 9 and 10**, the cross of Christ and his resurrection is opened to the Gentiles. In **Acts 10:9-13**, Peter has a vision that is of great significance. *God tells Peter to kill and eat something that was once unclean telling him, "do not call anything impure that God has now made clean."*

- Have do you deal with change? Transition?
- When the opportunity to be in relationship with God opened outside of the Jewish people, what do you think the difficulties were?
- Think of a similar event in your life where things were changed for the better but you had a hard time coming to be enthusiastic about it. Likely an event you did not see the good at the time, but came to find out the good over time.