Nov 1, 2026 GIFT Hour Handout:
Lesson 6: Caesarea by the Sea: Following Jesus When You Need Grace
Max Lucado Series: In His Footsteps

2 Caesarea Cities:



Caesarea Philippi (Ray Vander Laan video)
Only mentioned in Matthew 16: 13-18. Jesus instructing disciples at the Gates of Hades (Hell) that His church is built on the rock of God revealing to **Peter** that Jesus was the Christ, the Messiah. And the gates of Hades (Hell) would not overcome his Church.

Caesarea Maritima (Caesarea by the Sea): Max Lucado's video
Max teaches about Cornelius, Roman Centurion and **Peter** that Jesus is the Savior of ALL people, not just the Jews.

Because of its location "by the Sea" it is mentioned many times in the book of Acts.

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS THAT TOOK PLACE NEAR "CAESAREA MARITIMA (BY THE SEA)":

Cornelius has a vison and sends men to Joppa to find Peter	Acts 10:1–48
Paul lands in Caesarea after his second missionary journey	Acts 18:22
Paul visits Philip the Evangelist after his third missionary journey	Acts 21:8–9
Agabus prophesizes that Paul will be handed over to the Romans	Acts 21:10–11
Paul is arrested and taken to Governor Felix	Acts 23:23–24
Paul is imprisoned in Caesarea for two years	Acts 24:27
Paul appears before Governor Festus	Acts 25:6–7
Paul appears before King Agrippa and Bernice	Acts 25:23
Paul boards a ship headed for Rome	Acts 27:1–2

Note: Both teachings today involve Peter as the key disciple!!!

Discussion questions:

1) Any further thoughts on how today's two videos relate to how Southminster should move forward in the future?

2) Think of a time in your life that you were excluded because you were not considered part of the group. How did that make you feel?

3) Max Lucado's teaching that the church should not be a **clubhouse** where everyone looks, thinks, talks, believes alike. Max says the the church should be a **lighthouse**.

    a) An impassable yawn stretched between Jews and Gentiles in the days of the early church. No Jew would have anything to do with a Gentile. **Unless, of course, that Jew was named Jesus.**

    b) How did the story of Peter and Cornelius demonstrate God's plan is for his church to be a **lighthouse**.

    c) What did you once consider "unclean" or taboo or un-Christian that you no longer do? How did God change your mind about this?

4) Thoughts on how Southminster stacks up? What could we do differently?

5) Max Lucado's teachings from Acts 15: 1-11 about **Grace-a-lots** and **Grace Alone**.

    a) **Grace-a-lots** The Pharisees believed God's grace accomplished a lot in the rowboat of salvation. God takes one oar and we take the other. God does his part. We do our part.

    b) **Grace Alone** Peter reminded the church council of the conversion of Cornelius. What saved the Jews would save the Gentiles. Not through the work of a devoted saint, the penance of the church, nor through tithes or prayers, but only through the grace of Christ.