

GOD'S GRACE IS A GIFT WE DO NOT DESERVE

STORY: REDEMPTION / YEAR: HOPE

BIG TRUTH: GOD'S GRACE IS A GIFT WE DO NOT DESERVE

Ephesians 2:1-5; Titus 3:3-7; Romans 6:23; 2 Timothy 1:8-9; Romans 5:6-8; Romans 3:20-24

BIBLE VERSE: ROMANS 3:23-24

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus."

BIG IDEAS

- Because of sin, we do not deserve God's grace.
- Because grace is a gift, we cannot earn it.
- Because God is good, He extends His grace to us through Jesus.
- Because God's grace is priceless and undeserved we respond in praise and awe.

BIBLE STORY: LUKE 17:11-19

Jesus was on His way to Jerusalem when He encountered ten lepers. They cried out for mercy. Jesus instructed them to go and see the priest and as they went, they were healed. Their healing meant that they no longer had to live on the outside of town away from people. Only one of the lepers returned to worship and praise Jesus. Only one of the lepers truly understood the grace that he had received. He understood who Jesus really was and he worshipped Him as the true Messiah. We are like the ten lepers. We do not deserve to have our sin debt paid for. We do not deserve to receive grace and mercy from God, but God chooses to show us grace and mercy.

STORY: REDEMPTION

Thankfully, God does not just leave us in the broken world, but is repairing the brokenness through His Son. From the very beginning of time, God promised He would fix creation, and He kept His promise by sending Jesus to rescue us from our sin. Jesus came to live on the earth and willingly died on the cross so that sin's power over creation would be broken forever.

BIG AIMS



Every child should know that:

- God provides mercy and grace through Jesus
- Mercy is when God does not give us what we deserve; grace is when God gives us what we do not deserve



Every child should feel:

- Awe at God's goodness in His mercy and grace to us



Every child should:

- Give thanks because God is merciful and gracious to us



Every child should want:

- To accept God's gifts of mercy and grace that He extends to us through Jesus

FAMILY DEVOTION: UNDESERVED GRACE

There is nothing we can do to earn grace. Grace is an undeserved, unearned gift from God. God's grace heals our broken hearts and fixes our broken relationship with Him.

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BIBLE VERSE: ROMANS 3:23-24

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus."

Every person is sinful and therefore unworthy.

- There is no person who has never sinned except for Jesus.
- Every single person ever born or who will ever be born is sinful.
- Our hearts are sinful and seek our own way.
- We do not naturally seek to please God or to obey Him.
- We seek to please our own sinful hearts.
- Our sinfulness causes us to be unworthy before God.

We have all fallen short of God's glory.

- God is holy and just.
- He is full of glory, but we are not.
- Our sinfulness causes us to not have glory like God does.
- We are sinful and have no glory.
- Our sin makes us unrighteous.
- God is holy and full of glory, but we are not like God.

God's gracious gift of Jesus redeems us.

- God made a way for us to be redeemed.
- He sent His Son, Jesus, to pay for our sins.
- Jesus took on our sins and died on the cross.
- His death was seen as a sufficient sacrifice for our sin.
- We are justified, or seen as sinless when we have saving faith in Jesus.
- Jesus makes a way for us to be saved.

BIBLE STORY: LUKE 17:11-19

Jesus Heals Ten Lepers

Opening Illustration:

Give each child a piece of art paper, paint, or markers. On the board write the words "God is..." Talk with the children about the different things that God is. He is Savior. He is Father. He is Merciful. He is Gracious. He is our Rescuer. Ask the children to draw pictures with their paint of one of the things that God is. Tape the pictures together when they are dry to make a paper quilt. Place the quilt on the wall under the phrase "God is..." written on a long piece of paper.

GOD'S GRACE IS A GIFT WE DO NOT DESERVE

BIG IDEA: BECAUSE OF SIN, WE DO NOT DESERVE GOD'S GRACE.

Our sin blinds us to God's holiness.¹

- Sin is selfishness and causes us to focus on our own lives.
- Our selfishness keeps us focused only on what we do and want.
- We do not see life around us except for how it affects us.
- Our sin blinds us.
- The nine lepers did not see Jesus' holiness. Only one leper saw Jesus' holiness.
- They only saw themselves and their own need.



Use a bandana as a blindfold. Have the children take turns wearing the blindfold and then guessing an object that you hold up in your hands, such as a pencil, crayon, piece of paper, etc. Once every child has a chance to wear the blindfold, talk with the children about how we are blind to our sin and keeps us from deserving God's grace.

Because our sin blinds us, we cannot really earn God's grace.

- Even though the ten lepers received Jesus' grace, they had done nothing to deserve it.
- They were blind to who Jesus is and to what He had really done for them.
- Our sin blinds us to Jesus.
- We could never do good works and earn God's grace.
- We would never really do good works because we would be captive to our sin.
- There is nothing we could do to deserve God's grace because we all have sinful hearts.
- Our actions are all for our own glory and good before we have saving faith in Jesus.
- Because of our sin, there's no way we could ever deserve God's gift of grace.

What does our sin keep us from deserving? (It keeps us from deserving God's grace.)

1. 2 Corinthians 4:4: Our sin blinds us from God's truth. We believe Satan's lies instead of believing God's truth.

GOD'S GRACE IS A GIFT WE DO NOT DESERVE

BIG IDEA: BECAUSE GOD'S GRACE IS A GIFT WE CANNOT EARN IT.

Apart from God, we can do no good.

- We are born sinful and separated from God.
- We may try to do good things, but apart from God nothing we do is good.
- We cannot do good things because apart from God, we do not glorify Him.
- There is no good person.
- There are no good works done separate from God.
- He is good and we know good because of Him.



We can never earn God's gift of grace.²

- Nothing we do is truly good because our hearts are sinful.
- We may think that we are good or even that we do good works.
- We are not good and our good works are not really pleasing to God.
- Because of our sinful hearts, we could never deserve God's gracious gift.
- The ten lepers did nothing to deserve Jesus' healing of them.
- They did not first honor Him or worship Him and then receive His healing.
- They were sick and in need of His healing and they cried out to Him.
- They did not earn His gift to them like we do not earn ours.

Bring in a container of water, a colander and several empty bowls. Tell the children that in order to earn a prize, they have to move the water from the container to the bowls using the small colander. Allow them to try several times and then talk with them about how we cannot earn God's grace just like you cannot move the water with a colander.

What can we never earn from God? (We can never earn His gift of grace to us.)

². Ephesians 2:8-9: Our righteousness comes through belief in Jesus Christ. It has nothing to do with our works. Nothing we do could earn righteousness for us. We receive it as a gift from God.

GOD'S GRACE IS A GIFT WE DO NOT DESERVE

BIG IDEA: BECAUSE GOD IS GOOD HE EXTENDS HIS GRACE TO US THROUGH JESUS.

God is good and holy.³

- We know what good is because God is good.
- God is always good.
- We understand good because we come from God.
- We may even try to do good things because we are a reflection of God, but apart from Him, we cannot do good.
- God is truly good and His heart is pure. His reasons, or motives for doing good are pure.
- God is always good, even when things seem bad or hurtful. He is good.
- Everything He does is good.
- Every thought, feeling, and action of God's is good.



Help the children understand God's goodness by creating a list of good things that we have in life. Ask the children to call out different good things from their own life, such as parents, a bed, special toys, playtime, etc. Remind them that it is because of God's goodness that we receive His gift of grace.

God's goodness is shown to us when He sends Jesus.

- God is always good and His goodness is shown to us by His willingness to sacrifice for us.
- God sent Jesus even when we did not deserve Him.
- Jesus healed the ten lepers even though they did nothing to deserve it.
- God shows us grace by sending His Son to pay our sin debt.
- It is nothing we do that causes God to send His Son.
- It is only God's goodness that causes Him to offer forgiveness to us.
- The ten lepers did not earn healing from Jesus.
- They were not seeking to honor or please Him. They were just like every other person, dead in their sins.
- It was Jesus' goodness that caused Him to heal them.

What causes God to send us Jesus? (His goodness causes Him to show us grace.)

3. Mark 10:18: No one is good except for God. We cannot earn His gift of grace because we do nothing good apart from Him.

GOD'S GRACE IS A GIFT WE DO NOT DESERVE

BIG IDEA: BECAUSE GOD'S GRACE IS PRICELESS AND UNDESERVED WE RESPOND IN PRAISE AND AWE.

No price can be placed on God's grace.⁴

- Because there is no way we could ever earn God's grace, no price can be put on it.
- We could never say if we do a certain number of good things, we then have earned God's grace.
- God's grace is priceless because it can only be given out of God's goodness and never earned by man.



Spend some time singing praise songs with the children, such as "Praise Him, Praise Him". Remind the children that God's grace causes us to worship Him.

We could never deserve God's grace.

- The priceless nature of God's grace means we could never deserve it.
- We are unworthy to receive God's grace because we are sinners.
- Our hearts are wicked and sinful.
- We do not deserve to be forgiven, to have our hearts healed and made new.
- The ten lepers did not deserve to have their bodies healed.
- They were unable to earn the gift of grace.

God's grace causes us to praise Him and to be in awe of Him.

- The one leper bowed down in worship because he understood his unworthiness in receiving the gift of healing.
- We are unworthy and when we realize this, we will worship God.
- We will be in awe, or wonder, that Jesus chose to die for us when we realize our unworthiness.
- We will bow down and worship Him like the one leper did because we will know that we are undeserving.

What does God's grace cause us to do? (It causes us to worship and praise Him. We are in awe of Him.)

4. Romans 11:6: Our salvation comes only through God's grace towards us. His grace is a gift that is undeserved.

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HOOKS



Only One

Put ten pieces of paper in a bag or a hat. Make sure that all of the pieces of paper are the same color, except for one. Have one child at a time pull a piece of paper from the bag. Keep going until they draw the one that is the different color. Talk about how even though Jesus had healed ten lepers, only one had come back to praise Him and thank Him for what He had done.



A Cause For Awe

Give each child an index card and a marker. Ask the child to write down or draw a picture of one thing that causes them awe. (Explain that "awe" means having a sense of wonder or overwhelming feeling of "wow"!) Place all of the index cards on a poster board where they can be easily seen. Talk with the children about how God's gift of grace to us causes us to have awe.



- When we realize just how much we do not deserve God's grace, we will be thankful. We will praise Him and we will be in awe that He gives us grace.
- The one leper was in awe that Jesus chose to heal him.
- When we understand that we do not deserve God's grace, we will be in awe, too

