

GOD'S GRACE IS A GIFT WE DO NOT DESERVE

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:

- Give thanks because God is merciful and gracious to us



Every child should feel:

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



Every child should want:

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

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UNDESERVED GRACE

Gather together a large bowl of uncooked rice, several empty bowls, and a pair of tweezers. Tell your child that in order for him or her to earn a special treat, he or she has to transfer every grain of rice to the empty bowls using the tweezers in one minute. Help your child try to move the rice and after a few minutes, talk with your child about how it's nearly impossible to do that in a minute just like it's impossible to earn God's grace. We are always undeserving of His grace.

DISCOVER IT: (Use the passage to illustrate the Big Truth.)

Luke 17:11-19.

THINK ABOUT IT: (Use the commentary to reinforce the Big Truth.)

Jesus was on His way to Jerusalem when He passed by ten men who suffered from leprosy. Leprosy was a terrible disease that was very contagious. It was so contagious that a person with leprosy couldn't be a part of society. They had to stay away from people. The ten lepers were outside of town when Jesus passed by. They cried out to him in desperation, asking Him to help them. Jesus could have continued on His way. The lepers had not offered Him any money or done anything to earn the right to be healed. Jesus didn't ask anything of them in order to heal them. He stopped and told them to go into town and see the priest. As they headed into town, their leprosy disappeared. He had healed them. They had done nothing to deserve His gift of healing, yet He had healed them. Nine of the lepers continued into town and saw the priest. One leper, after realizing that he was healed, turned and fell down at Jesus' feet. He began to worship Him and praise Him for His gift of healing. This one leper understood that he did not deserve the healing and he understood the gift that Jesus had given him. Jesus praised the man's true faith in Him. We are like the lepers. We do not deserve God's gift of grace. We do not deserve to have our sin debt paid, but God, in His goodness, sent His Son, Jesus to pay our sin debt. It is a priceless gift. When we truly understand, like the one leper, that we do not deserve the gift, we, too, will worship and praise God.

TALK ABOUT IT: (Use the questions to discuss the Big Truth)

- What the lepers cry out to Jesus for? (They cried out for help.)
- What did Jesus do for the lepers? (He healed them.)
- How many lepers returned to praise Jesus? (Only one leper returned.)
- How are we like the lepers? (We don't deserve the gift of grace like they didn't deserve to be healed.)



As a family, memorize Romans 3:23-24 by writing the words of the verses on index cards and then playing a matching game with them. Say the verses several times out loud.

Help your child choose a small gift to give to a friend or family member. Help your child wrap the gift and then take it to the chosen person. Talk with your child about how the person receiving the gift has done nothing to deserve it, but you are choosing to be kind. Remind him or her that God's gift of grace to us is not something we deserve. It is simply a gift.

Take your child on a special date. Plan a trip to the local park playground or an indoor playground. Tell your child that he or she has done nothing to deserve the special date. Remind him or her that God's gift of grace to us is not deserved. We could never earn it.

Keep track of the times that family members show thankfulness by placing a button or marble in a jar every time someone hears a family member say "thank you" or express thanks in some other way. At the end of the week, talk with your child about how we are thankful for God's gift of grace because we are so undeserving of it.

Spend some time this week singing praise songs that worship God, such as "Holy, Holy, Holy".