

GOD'S GRACE IS RECEIVED THROUGH FAITH

BIG TRUTH: GOD'S GRACE IS RECEIVED THROUGH FAITH

John 3:14-18; Romans 3:20-24; Ephesians 2:8; Galatians 2:15-16; Philippians 3:8-11

BIBLE VERSE: EPHESIANS 2:8-9

"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast."

BIG IDEAS

- We cannot save ourselves from sin.
- Faith is not possible until we begin to see God for who He really is and we see ourselves for who we really are.
- Faith is choosing to put our trust in Jesus alone as our Savior.

BIBLE STORY: LUKE 18:9-14

When we truly understand who we are as sinners, we understand the grace that God has shown us. The tax collector really saw God in His holiness and he saw himself in his sinfulness.

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



KNOW

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



FEEL

Every child should feel:

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



DO

Every child should:

- Give thanks because God is merciful and gracious to us



WANT

Every child should want:

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

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A FAITH THAT TRUSTS

Use a bandana as a blindfold and have your child try to walk through your house wearing the blindfold. The only help that they get is listening to your voice telling them when to turn and in which direction to go. Our faith in Jesus means we trust Him to save us. When we truly understand ourselves and how sinful we are, we show our faith by trusting in Him to save us.

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

Luke 18:9-14.

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

Jesus shared a parable, or story about two men who entered the temple to pray. The first man was a religious man, or a Pharisee. This man studied the law and was considered very religious and good. When he entered the temple to pray, he began to talk about how good he was. His heart was prideful and puffed up. He loved himself more than he loved God. He did not understand who he really was, or how sinful he was. The tax collector was different than the Pharisee. When he entered the temple, he was so overcome with God's holiness that he could not even lift his head. He dared not look toward heaven because he understood his own sinfulness. He bowed his head and cried out to God to save him, to help him because he knew he was sinful and in need of salvation. When we understand our sinfulness and we see God for who He really is, we will show our faith by trusting in Jesus to save us. Jesus is the only way to be saved. Our faith is revealed when we cry out to Him for salvation.

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

- What was the Pharisee's prayer like? (He talked about how great he was instead of how holy God is.)
- What was the tax collector's prayer like? (He cried out to God for help.)
- How is our faith revealed? (When we cry out to Jesus for salvation and trust Him for it.)



KNOW

As a family, memorize Ephesians 2:8-9 by taking turns using a loud voice and a quiet voice to say the verse out loud.



DO

As a family, spend time painting smooth rocks that can be found at craft stores. As you paint the rocks, talk with your child about how the rocks are small and low. They are not high and tall. Remind them that when we understand our own sinfulness and we see God's holiness, we are like the rocks, small and low. We understand just how much we need God.



FEEL

Write the word "Jesus" on a paper plate. Next, cut the plate into pie slices. Help your child put the pie slices together to spell the name "Jesus". As you put the pie slices together, talk with your child about how Jesus is the only way to be saved. When we have humility and understand who we really are, we have faith in Jesus to save us.



WANT

Set up a visit to your local police station. As you tour the station, talk with your child about how the police help us when we cannot help ourselves. Remind them that only God can save us when we have saving faith in Jesus.

Spend some time this week praying with your child thanking God for sending Jesus to save us.