

FOUNDATION: GOD IS GRACIOUS - GOD GIVES FORGIVENESS

GOD'S GRACE AND FORGIVENESS CHANGE OUR HEARTS

BIG TRUTH: GOD'S GRACE AND FORGIVENESS CHANGE OUR HEARTS

Deuteronomy 30:6; Ezekiel 36:22-27; Psalm 51:10; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21; 1 John 3:4-9

BIBLE VERSE: EPHESIANS 1:7

"In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace."

BIG IDEAS

- God forgives our sin, and saves us through His grace.
- God's grace and forgiveness cause us to see Him as our king.
- God's grace and forgiveness cause us to love Him with all we are and have.
- God's grace and forgiveness are made known through the Gospel.

BIBLE STORY: MARK 14:1-8

God's amazing grace and forgiveness are so incredible that they change us from the inside out. Mark shares a story of one woman whose life was changed because of Jesus. Mary shows just how much her heart has changed by making a great sacrifice. When she uses the entire bottle of perfume to anoint Jesus, she receives criticism from the disciples, but Jesus tells them that she loves Him more than anything else and there is no greater sacrifice than that. When we truly experience God's grace and forgiveness, we will love Him more than anything else.

FOUNDATION: GOD IS GRACIOUS - GOD GIVES FORGIVENESS

Every person who has ever lived has chosen to reject God, and we deserve to be punished. We deserve complete separation from God because we have willfully chosen to disobey God's law and run from Him. However, God is gracious in that He gives us exactly the opposite of what we deserve. Instead of punishment, He provides a way of salvation by sending Jesus to take the punishment we deserve. We deserve punishment, but instead, we receive grace. Grace is getting a gift that we do not deserve. The way that we receive grace is through forgiveness. When we confess our sins the Bible tells us that He is faithful and just to forgive us of our sins because of His redeeming grace.

BIG AIMS



Every child should know:

- That God is gracious
- That grace is when God gives us what we do not deserve and cannot earn



Every child should feel:

- Thankful for the gifts of grace that they have received



Every child should be able to:

- Recognize things that they have as gifts of grace from God



Every child should want to:

- To know about God's gift of grace through salvation and forgiveness of our sins

The Family Devotion on the next page is a weekly tool for the home. It is designed for you as family to gather for a few minutes on a set night of the week to unpack the Big Truth together. Use the model below and customize it to fit your family. As you continue to learn, love, and live out the Big Truth, some additional Hooks (next page) are provided that correspond to the Big Aims (see above). Use them to keep the conversation going throughout the week with your family.

GOD'S GRACE AND FORGIVENESS
CHANGE OUR HEARTS**RICH IN GRACE**

Show your child a container of sand. Ask your child to count the grains of sand. Tell them that there are too many grains to count. The grains of sand are like God's grace---numerous. God has a lot of grace and He shows us grace by offering forgiveness through His Son.

DISCOVER IT:

Read Mark 14:1-8.

THINK ABOUT IT:

Mary's love for Jesus was most apparent in her willingness to sacrifice her expensive ointment to anoint Him. Her anointing of Him showed her acknowledgement of Him as king. She worshipped Jesus by anointing Him, but even more so by sacrificing something very precious to her to honor Him. God is a gracious God. He shows us great grace when He offers us forgiveness. Just as Mary's love for Jesus knew no limits, God's grace has no limits. He showers us with His grace when we least deserve it. Jesus was very deserving of Mary's anointing, but we are not deserving of God's forgiveness, yet He gives it freely and willingly. He is rich in grace.

TALK ABOUT IT:

- How did Mary show her love for Jesus? (She was willing to sacrifice her precious ointment.)
- How did Mary worship Jesus? (She anointed Him with her expensive ointment.)
- What is God rich in? (He's rich in grace.)



Help your child memorize Ephesians 1:7 by playing beanbag toss with them. Every time the beanbag hits a designated mark, you get to say the verse out loud.



Spend some time with your child making cookies to give away to neighbors. Allow your child to watch the cookies as they bake. Talk with him or her about how the cookie is changing its form. Our hearts are changed when we experience God's grace and forgiveness. We become new creatures because of His grace just like the cookies are changing because of the heat of the oven. When the cookies are finished share the cookies with your neighbors or friends. Talk with your child about how experiencing God's grace and forgiveness help us to love God and love others well.



Show your child pictures of a caterpillar or a real caterpillar. Then show them a picture of a cocoon or a real cocoon if you can find one. Next show your child a picture of a butterfly. Tell your child that God's grace and forgiveness changes us on the inside like the caterpillar changes on the inside of the cocoon. It transforms us into a new person.



Spend some time as a family praying and thanking God for how His grace and forgiveness changes us into new people.