

# GOD DOES NOT GIVE HIS PEOPLE WHAT THEY DESERVE

## **BIG TRUTH: GOD DOES NOT GIVE HIS PEOPLE WHAT THEY DESERVE**

Deuteronomy 6:7-11; 9:6-7; Romans 3:21-24; 5:6-8; 6:23; 8:1; 2 Corinthians 5:18-19; Ephesians 1:3-9; 2:1-6

## **BIBLE VERSE: ROMANS 6:23**

*For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

## **BIG IDEAS**

- God is full of grace.
- God shows grace to His enemies.
- God shows us grace through Jesus.
- God's grace changes our hearts.

## **BIBLE STORY: LUKE 19:1-10**

God is a gracious God. He extends grace to us when we do not deserve His grace. Luke shares the story of a man who was undeserving of God's grace, but God sought him out. Zacchaeus thought he wanted to get a better look at Jesus, but really God was drawing Zacchaeus to Him for salvation. God's grace changes our lives.

## **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.

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## HEART-CHANGING GRACE

Place some water in a pot and bring the water to a boil. Allow your child to watch the water turn into steam from a safe distance. The water is changing to steam. It is becoming different just like God's grace changes our hearts. Our hearts are not the same after we experience God's grace.

## DISCOVER IT:

Read Luke 19:1-10.

## THINK ABOUT IT:

When Zacchaeus climbed into a tree to get a better look at Jesus, he probably didn't know that his life was never going to be the same. Jesus did pass by Zacchaeus and when He did, He called out to Zacchaeus. Zacchaeus came down from the tree and Jesus went with him to his house. Zacchaeus placed saving faith in Jesus that day. His life was changed. His heart was changed. He no longer desired to get wealthy by taking money from people. Instead, he decided to repay all the people he'd wrongly taken money from. God's grace to Zacchaeus changed his life, not only on this earth, but for all of eternity. In that one instant when Zacchaeus obeyed Jesus' command to come down from the tree, his heart was changed by God's grace. Our hearts are changed by God's grace when we turn away from our sin and believe in Jesus for salvation, too.

## TALK ABOUT IT:

- Why did Zacchaeus climb up a tree? (He wanted to get a better look at Jesus.)
- What did Jesus command Zacchaeus to do? (He commanded him to come down from the tree.)
- How did God's grace change Zacchaeus' life? (He believed in Jesus and he no longer wanted to steal money from people.)



Help your child memorize Titus 2:11 by playing beanbag toss with them. Every time the beanbag hits a designated mark, you get to say the verse out loud.



At the beginning of the week, make a list of people you can bless by doing something special for them. Each day, choose a person to bless by sending them a card, giving them a small gift, or helping them complete a task. At the end of the week, talk with your child about how we can show the world God's grace by showing love to others.



Lead your child in a conversation about what "grace" means. It is receiving something you don't deserve. We cannot earn God's grace. He gives it to us freely. Take your child on a special trip to their favorite playground, the zoo, or an aquarium. Tell your child that they haven't done anything to deserve the trip, but you are showing them grace just like God shows us grace by sending His Son to pay our sin debt.



Spend some time as a family praying and giving thanks to God for showing the world grace by sending His Son. Thank God for not giving us what we deserve, but instead offering salvation to us.