

GOD'S GRACE AND FORGIVENESS CHANGE OUR HEARTS

FOUNDATION: GOD IS GRACIOUS - GOD GIVES FORGIVENESS

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.

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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

FAMILY DEVOTION: RICH IN GRACE

God's grace is not a small thing. God is rich in grace. He forgives us a great sin debt and He does so by showing incredible grace to us.

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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."

God's redemption is an example of His grace.

- God offers redemption to people who do not deserve redemption.
- God gives redemption to people who are not worthy of God's grace.
- No one can earn God's redemption or grace.
- God freely and willingly gives His grace.

God's grace is rich and full.

- Because of God's grace, the world is offered redemption.
- People can have their sins forgiven because God's grace is so rich.
- Our relationship with God can be renewed because of God's rich grace.

We have our sins forgiven because of God's rich grace.

- We cannot pay for our own sins.
- We are all in need of someone to pay our debt.
- God is so rich in grace that He willingly offers us forgiveness.
- No one forgives like God forgives.
- We understand forgiveness because God forgave us.

GOD'S GRACE AND FORGIVENESS
CHANGE OUR HEARTS**BIBLE STORY: MARK 14:1-8***Mary Anoints Jesus*

Supporting Scripture: Romans 4:25; Ephesians 2:8; Revelation 5:12

Teacher Introduction:

Before Jesus was crucified, He gathered with His disciples in preparation of celebrating the Passover. During this time, we see a beautiful picture of how God's grace and forgiveness change a person's heart. To show her love for Jesus, Mary chose to anoint Jesus with a very expensive flask of ointment. The ointment would have cost a year's wages. It was a great sacrifice to use the entire flask, but Mary didn't even consider it a sacrifice. When His disciples criticized her for seemingly wasting the ointment, Jesus revealed that she was the right one and they were the wrong ones. Her life had been changed by God's grace and forgiveness and now she loved Jesus more than anything else. This is what God's grace and forgiveness do. They change our hearts and we love God more than we love anything else. God's grace makes us new people and Mary revealed what a changed heart looks like.

Teaching Guide:

The guide below is provided to help you teach the narrative: *Mary Anoints Jesus*. The four points are the Big Ideas that should guide your lesson as you share from Mark 14:1-8 and teach the narrative: *Mary Anoints Jesus*. Footnotes are provided for further study of the text and God's interaction with His people. Throughout the lesson, questions are placed to help you guide the preschoolers to think about and process the narrative: *Mary Anoints Jesus*.

Opening Illustration:

Bring in a container of water and a container of ice cubes. Show both of them to the children. Tell them that the ice cubes used to look like the water before they were changed or frozen. Lead them in a discussion about how our hearts are changed when we experience God's grace and forgiveness.

- These ice cubes used to look just like this water, but then they were placed in the freezer and they changed to ice cubes.
- Our hearts are different after we experience God's grace and forgiveness.
- We love Jesus more than we love anything else when we experience His grace and forgiveness.

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BIG IDEA: GOD FORGIVES OUR SIN AND SAVES US THROUGH HIS GRACE.

Our sin debt is paid for by Jesus.¹

- God provides a way for our sin debt to be paid.
- God forgives our sins when we turn away from them and believe in Jesus.
- Mary knew what it meant to have her sins forgiven. She understood the cost of her forgiveness.
- God forgives our sins through the sacrifice of His Son.

God's grace saves us from our sins.²

- Mary was willing to use very expensive ointment in order to worship Jesus.
- She understood the grace that Jesus had shown her.
- God's grace is so great and it saves us from our sins.
- God is willing to show us grace by providing redemption for us.



Bring in a small perfume bottle or container. Role play Mary anointing Jesus with the ointment. Tell the children that Mary's heart was changed because she experienced God's grace and forgiveness and she wanted to worship Jesus.

What does God forgive? (He forgives our sin.)

God saves us through what? (He saves us through His grace.)

1. Romans 4:25: Jesus was delivered over to death so that we might live forever with God. Jesus paid our sin debt.

2. Ephesians 2:8: It is God's grace that saves us from our sins. He shows us grace by paying our sin debt when we do not deserve to have Him pay our sin debt.

GOD'S GRACE AND FORGIVENESS
CHANGE OUR HEARTS**BIG IDEA: GOD'S GRACE AND FORGIVENESS CAUSE US TO SEE HIM AS OUR KING.****Our hearts are changed when we experience God's grace and forgiveness.**

- God's grace towards us is so incredible, so great that when we experience it, we understand His majesty.³
- God is our king. He alone is worthy of our praise and worship.
- When we fully experience His grace, we see God as our king.
- Mary saw Jesus as her king.
- Her heart understood that Jesus was her king.
- She willingly sacrificed ointment that cost nearly a year's worth of wages to anoint Jesus.
- Her act of sacrifice revealed her changed heart and her understanding of the grace shown to her.



Lead the children to praise God as king. Help them think of things we can praise God for and how He acts as our king in life. He controls all things and watches over us. He protects us and guides us.

When we understand how much we've been forgiven, we'll worship Him as king.⁴

- Our sin is great. It is so great that we could never pay it on our own.
- When we understand that Jesus paid our sin debt and God forgives us, we will want to worship Jesus as our king.
- Mary made a great sacrifice because she understood how much she had been forgiven.
- Jesus praised her because her actions showed she saw Him as king.

How do we see Jesus when we experience His grace and forgiveness? (We see Him as our king.)

What does God's grace and forgiveness cause us to do? (They cause us to worship Him as our king.)

3. Psalm 47:2: God is a great king and greatly to be praised. When we experience His grace and forgiveness, we will see Him as king.

4. Revelation 5:12: Jesus is the worthy Lamb of God. He is worthy to receive our worship and praise for all of eternity.

GOD'S GRACE AND FORGIVENESS
CHANGE OUR HEARTS**BIG IDEA: GOD'S GRACE AND FORGIVENESS CAUSE US TO LOVE HIM WITH ALL WE HAVE.****Our love for God will be great when we understand His grace and forgiveness.**

- Mary's flask of ointment was very costly. It was nearly a year's worth of wages.
- She loved Jesus so much that she was willing to pour it all out for Him.
- She had experienced God's grace and forgiveness and it caused her love for Jesus to grow.
- Our love for God will increase when we understand God's grace and forgiveness.
- We will see Jesus as our King and know He has shown us much grace and forgiveness.



Help the children to make a list of their favorite toys and possessions. Ask them to describe something that is very special to them. Next, ask them if they'd sell it and give the money to Jesus. Lead them in a discussion about how Mary loved Jesus so much that she gave up her most prized possession.

God's grace and forgiveness will cause us to love Him with everything we have.

- Mary willingly used all of her ointment because she loved Him.
- She loved Him because she knew she had received His grace and forgiveness.
- We will love God with everything we have when we experience His grace and forgiveness.⁵
- God's grace and forgiveness change us and we love Him with all we have.
- We are willing to sacrifice our greatest treasures to glorify God.

What do God's grace and forgiveness cause our love to do? (They cause it to grow.)

How will we love God when we experience His grace and forgiveness? (We will love Him with everything that we have.)

5. Matthew 22:37: We will love the Lord with all of ourselves when we experience His grace and forgiveness.

GOD'S GRACE AND FORGIVENESS
CHANGE OUR HEARTS**BIG IDEA: GOD'S GRACE AND FORGIVENESS ARE MADE KNOWN THROUGH THE GOSPEL.****God's provision of redemption is through Jesus.⁶**

- God showed grace to us when He willingly sent His Son to pay our sin debt.
- We know what grace is because of the Gospel.
- Mary understood what grace was and she knew how much she had been forgiven.
- Mary was praised for her worship of Jesus.



Lead the children in singing praise songs thanking Jesus for His life and death. Tell the children that God's grace and forgiveness are known through Jesus' death.

God's forgiveness of our sins is the Gospel.

- God made a way for our sin debt to be paid.
- He showed much grace to us by providing redemption for us.
- It is because of the Gospel that we understand God's grace and His forgiveness.
- Jesus came to pay our sin debt and He is the reason we understand what forgiveness is.
- We really see God's grace through the gift of His Son, Jesus.
- When God sent Jesus to die for our sins, He showed us great grace and forgiveness even though we didn't deserve it.

Through whom does God provide redemption? (God provides redemption through Jesus.)

How do we see God's grace and forgiveness? (We see them through Jesus' death on the cross.)

6. 1 John 2:2: Jesus was the atoning sacrifice for our sins. It is through Him that God showed us grace and forgiveness.

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HOOKS

**Inside Out**

Bring in an apple seed, apple seedling, or a picture of an apple tree, an apple, and some applesauce. Show all parts of the apple to the children. Tell them that the apple begins as a hard little seed. It grows into a tree and then it produces the apple. Then the apple can be changed into applesauce. Lead them in a discussion about how God's grace and forgiveness changes us from the inside out. Our hearts change first and then our attitudes and actions change. We can even begin to look different because we are filled with joy. Our joy will show through our happiness and love towards others.

**Grace Makes Us New**

Gather a piece of red foam cut it into the shape of a heart, a container of water with dish soap, and washable markers. Allow the children to mark on the heart with the washable markers for every time they have disobeyed their parents or been unkind to their friends. Tell them that the marks on the heart are like our own sinful hearts. Next, use the water with dish soap to wash the marker off the heart. This is what God's grace and forgiveness does to our hearts. It makes them new. It changes them.

**A Changed Heart**

Bring in an uncooked egg and a boiled egg still in its shell. Show both eggs to the children. Crack the uncooked egg into a bowl so the children can see. Slightly crack the cooked egg and peel away some of the shell so the children can see the softness under the shell. The uncooked egg is our heart before we experience God's grace and forgiveness. The boiled egg is our heart after we experience God's grace and forgiveness. It is softened by God's forgiveness and we are different.