

3RD GRADE GUIDE 9

GOD IS GRACIOUS FOUNDATION: GOD IS

BIG TRUTH: GOD IS GRACIOUS

Exodus 33:19; 34:6; 2 Chronicles 30:9; Nehemiah 9:31; Isaiah 30:18; Ephesians 2:7-8; Romans 3:24; 5:2; 6:23; Titus 2:11

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 gives His people what they do not deserve.
- We are saved by God's grace.
- We are sealed by God's grace.

BIBLE STORY: EPHESIANS 1:1-17

God is a kind and loving God. He is gracious and gives us what we do not deserve. He sent Jesus to save us, and He chose us to be His sons and daughters. He calls us His children because of His love and kindness for us.

FOUNDATION: GOD IS

"God is" means that there is only one god in the universe. He alone is Lord over everything that exists, and He alone is worthy of our worship. This also means that every good thing that exists comes from God. All good things come from Him because goodness is a part of who He is as the one true God. It is a part of His nature and character to be good, and everything that comes from God is good. Thankfully God has not chosen to withhold His goodness from His creation, but instead gives it freely to us.

BIG AIMS



Every child should know that:

- There is only one true God, and He is good.
- We can know God because He has made Himself known.
- God alone is our source of life and joy.



Every child should feel:

- Loved by God, and thankful for His love for us.
- Broken over the depth of our sin against God.
- Joy in Jesus, the only Son of God who came to save us.



Every child should be able to:

- Memorize the Bible verse each week about who God is.
- Pray that God would open their hearts and minds to know Him more.
- Tell someone else a truth about God each week.



Every child should want:

- Learn more about the God who has made Himself known.
- Repent of their sin and of the lies they believe about God.
- Cling to God as the source of truth.

FAMILY DEVOTION: GOD'S LAVISH GRACE

God is a good and gracious God. His grace is lavished upon His people through Jesus Christ. He gives the Holy Spirit as His gift of grace in their lives and adopts His people as His children.



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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"

Jesus provides redemption.

"In Him we have redemption through His blood..."

- To redeem something is to free it or to get it back. We are all in need of redemption from our sin because we are all born sinful. We cannot redeem ourselves because our redemption requires a sinless person to redeem us.
- Jesus is the sinless person who provides redemption for us. His life is perfect, and His death was sufficient to provide forgiveness and redemption for us. Through Him, we have the opportunity to be redeemed from the sin debt that we owe.

Jesus provides forgiveness.

"...the forgiveness of our trespasses..."

- Not only does Jesus provide redemption, but He also provides forgiveness for our sin. We all have sinned against God. We all need forgiveness for this sin. We cannot get this forgiveness ourselves.
- Because we are all born with a sin nature, we all sin against God. We break His rules and reject Him. We are in great need of His forgiveness and Jesus provides this forgiveness for us. He paid our sin debt on the cross and made a way for us to be forgiven.

God shows grace through Jesus.

"...according to the riches of His grace."

- We have redemption and forgiveness because God is a gracious God. He lavishes His grace upon the world by sending His only Son to the world to save the world from its sin. God didn't have to save the world from its sin.
- He chose to sacrifice greatly to save the world. He did this while we were still sinners. We did nothing to earn or deserve God's grace. God lavished His grace on us through His Son, Jesus. Jesus is God's grace towards the world.

BIBLE STORY: EPHESIANS 1:1-17*The Riches Of God's Grace*

Supporting Scripture: Ephesians 1:3-4; 1:5-6a; 1:13-14

Teacher Introduction:

Paul began his letter to the church at Ephesus by reminding them of the grace of God. Grace is unmerited favor. Something that is unmerited is something that isn't earned or deserved. Throughout this first chapter, Paul taught that the grace of God is revealed through the life and death of Jesus. Because we are all sinful, we all are in need of salvation. Before the foundation of the world was put in place, God had a salvation plan. His plan was and is Jesus. Before the heavens and the earth, God chose His redeemed people. What this reveals about God is that He is gracious and kind to the uttermost. There is no being more gracious and loving than God. God chose to send Jesus for us while we were still sinful and living in rebellion to Him. He showered His grace upon us though we did not deserve it. We cannot earn this grace. We do not deserve it. Not only does God redeem us, but He gives us His Holy Spirit, another gift of His grace. The Holy Spirit seals us and serves as our Helper in this life. Throughout our life on earth, the Holy Spirit guides us and keeps us. He helps us live for God and remain faithful to Him. God's graciousness is remarkable and should produce awe and worship in us.

Teaching Guide:

The guide below is provided to help you teach the story: The Riches of God's Grace. The three points are the Big Ideas that should guide your lesson as you share from Ephesians 1:1-17 and teach the truth that God is gracious. 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 truth that God is gracious.

Opening Illustration:

Play a game of "Simon Says" with the preschoolers. Each time a preschooler should have to sit out of the game, tell them that they can stay in because you are showing grace to them. Tell them that grace is giving something that isn't deserved. Tell them that God is gracious and gives us redemption when we don't deserve it.

BIG IDEA: GOD GIVES HIS PEOPLE WHAT THEY DO NOT DESERVE.¹**God is all-knowing and all-powerful.**

- God knows all things. He has all knowledge, understanding, and wisdom.
- We are not like God. We do not understand everything fully. We do not know all things or have all wisdom.
- God is also in complete control of all things. He is sovereign over everything.
- God knew before the beginning of the world that He would redeem the world because He is all-knowing.



Divide the children into groups and give each group a bowl full of different colored marbles or crayons. Ask the groups to separate the marbles or crayons by color. Tell them that God is gracious to us and chooses His redeemed people to be set apart for salvation.

God set apart His redeemed people because He is gracious.

- To be set apart is to be chosen and special. We all like to feel special and chosen.
- God is set apart because He is holy. Before the beginning of time, He set apart His redeemed people.
- His grace compelled Him to set apart His redeemed people. If God chooses people before the foundation of the world, there is no way that the people who are chosen can do anything to earn the grace they are shown.
- God is a gracious and good God.

God's people do not deserve His grace.

- We cannot earn God's grace. We can never be good enough to deserve God's grace.
- We are not good and cannot do good things that will deserve God's grace.
- God shows grace because He is good and kind. God shows grace because of His kindness and wisdom and sovereignty.
- We deserve to pay for our sin debt, but God shows us His grace and mercy.

Why does God show us grace? (He is kind and good and shows grace because He chooses to do so.)

1. Ephesians 1:3-4: God chose His people to redeem before the foundation of the world.

BIG IDEA: WE ARE SAVED BY GOD'S GRACE.²**God's grace saves us from our futile life on earth.**

- We all are born needing to be rescued. Because of our sin nature, we do not even know we need to be saved.
- We are blind to our need for a Savior. God shows us grace because He reveals our need for Jesus to us.
- God saves us from our sin and futile life on earth.
- It is His grace that saves us. There's nothing we do to earn our salvation.
- We aren't worthy enough to cause Jesus to come to earth. God just sent Jesus because He is full of grace and mercy.



Bring in several hula-hoops and place them on one side of the room. Bring in lots of balloons filled with air. Toss the balloons in the air and tell the children to grab a balloon. Tell them if they grab a balloon, they get to stand inside of one of the hula-hoops. Play this game several times until every child is inside of one of the hula-hoops. Tell them that they are all part of the hula-hoop gang. Tell them that God makes us part of His family because He is gracious and kind.

God's grace makes us a part of His family.

- Because of God's grace, we become part of His family. When we experience saving faith, God adopts us into His family. He makes us His sons and daughters.
- We are called His children because God is gracious and kind to make us His children.
- We do nothing to deserve this privilege of being God's children. He chooses to make us part of His family.

Being a part of God's family is eternal.

- When we become part of God's family, it is forever. There is nothing we can do to lose this distinction.
- Once God showers His grace upon us and makes us a part of His family, we are always a part of His family.
- God loves us and brings us into His family, choosing to save us rather than leave us as orphans.

Why is it important that God makes us His children? (God shows us grace by making us a part of His family.)

2. Ephesians 1:5-6a: We are adopted into God's family because He is gracious and kind.

BIG IDEA: WE ARE SEALED BY GOD'S GRACE.³**When God saves us, He seals us.**

- God is so gracious, when He saves us, He keeps us. We cannot lose our salvation.
- God saves us and seals us with His Spirit.
- This means He sends us His Spirit to live inside of us.
- The Spirit serves as a seal and shows the world that we belong to God.



Give the children a piece of construction paper. Give them crayons and markers and ask them to draw a picture that shows their thankfulness towards God for being gracious.

The Holy Spirit is a gift of God's grace.

- The Holy Spirit is how God reveals His grace to us.
- The Holy Spirit is our Helper and Guide. He works in us to make us more like God and He helps us live on the earth.
- The Holy Spirit gives us comfort and is always with us.
- To have the Spirit of God with us always is a gift that far surpasses any other gift.

We do not earn God's gift of the Holy Spirit.

- There is nothing we do to earn God's gift of His Spirit.
- The God of the universe gives us His Spirit to live inside of us. This is a unique and special gift that we could never deserve or earn.
- God is a good Father who showers His lavish grace upon His children.
- The Holy Spirit helps us live in this world. God gives His grace daily to His children to help them live for Him.

How is the Holy Spirit a gift of God's grace? (The Holy Spirit helps us and guides us.)

3. Ephesians 1:13-14: God shows His grace by giving us the Holy Spirit

HOOKS

**Good Enough**

Draw a picture of a cross on a large piece of paper and hang it on the wall. Next, give each child a paper heart with a piece of tape on the back of it. Ask the children to take turns spinning in a circle before trying to pin their heart on the center of the cross. Once every child has a chance to do this, talk with them about how some hearts made it on the center and some didn't. Talk about how some are good enough and some aren't. Tell them that we can't be good enough to earn our salvation, but it's a gift from God. He is so gracious He gives us salvation when we do not deserve it.

**God's Gift Of His Spirit**

Bring in a small fan and allow each child to feel the fan on their faces. Tell them that God gives His people the gift of the Holy Spirit and the Holy Spirit lives inside of His people. Tell them He isn't someone we see, like we don't see the wind, but He's with us always.

**An Undeserved Gift**

Lead the children in time of prayer thanking God for showing His grace to us by sending Jesus to pay our sin debt.