

SECTION
3.6

Jesus Showed Grace to Others



Introduction Activity (5 Minutes)

Option 1: High Jump

What You'll Need: Tape, yarn, scissors, candy or inexpensive prizes, gift bag

PREP: Cut a 3 to 6-inch piece of yarn. Tape it on the ceiling in the classroom, making sure that the kids will not be able to jump and touch it — but that at least one of the leaders would be able to touch it.

Fill the gift bag with candy or prizes.

STEP 1: Challenge the kids to, one at a time, jump and try to touch the yarn. Display the gift bag as a prize for the person who can complete the task.

STEP 2: Give each kid a second opportunity to try to touch the yarn. Then ask the tallest leader to jump and successfully touch the yarn. Give not only the leader a prize, but offer one to each of the kids as well.

Ask the following questions:

- How did you feel when you tried and failed to reach the goal?
- How did you feel when you still received the promised prize?

STEP 3: Share these key concepts:

- Grace is giving something good to someone who doesn't deserve it.
- We offered you grace by giving you a prize even when you didn't deserve it.
- Jesus offers grace to all who trust in Him as Savior. That means you and me!

STEP 4: Transition into the main lesson by opening in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to help you and your kids understand the importance that Jesus showed grace to others.

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Introduction Activity (5 Minutes)

Option 2: Grace Illustrated

What You'll Need: Gift bag, prizes

PREP: Purchase two of the same inexpensive prizes (e.g., gift card, large candy bar or soda, gum).

STEP 1: Display the gift bag, and tell kids the bag contains a prize. Ask three volunteers to demonstrate an on-the-spot skill to try to earn the prize (e.g., making a funny noise, mimicking a famous character, singing a song, reciting a passage of Scripture).

STEP 2: Have the class choose the winner of the prize by clapping the loudest. Praise the winner, give him or her a prize, and have the volunteers be seated. Then, call on a kid in the class who did not participate. Give him or her the second prize.

Ask the following questions:

- Did the first kid deserve the prize? Why or why not?
- Did the second kid deserve the prize? Why or why not?

STEP 3: Share these key concepts:

- Grace is giving something good to someone who doesn't deserve it.
- I offered grace to the second kid by giving him a prize even when he didn't deserve it.
- Jesus offers grace to all who trust in Him as Savior. That means you and me!

STEP 4: Transition into the main lesson by opening in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to help you and your kids understand the importance that Jesus showed grace to others.

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Main Lesson (10 Minutes)

Option 1: Freeze Frame Characters

What You'll Need: Bible, Freeze Frame Characters handout (optional: Bible-times costumes) *(Leader's Note: Larger clubs may divide into smaller groups to complete the activity.)*

PREP: Choose one of the Freeze Frame Character monologues from the handout. Print two copies of the monologue. Ask a leader to present the monologue with you during the large group time. (Optional: Ask the leader to dress in a Bible-times costume.)

STEP 1: Read or recite this week's memory verse, Ephesians 1:7. Repeat the verse a second time, pausing after each phrase.

Share these key concepts:

- When we trust Jesus as Savior, we are redeemed. That means we are freed from being a slave to sin.
- We have redemption and forgiveness from sin because Jesus gave His very life for us when He died on the cross for sin. This is God's grace to us!
- There is NOTHING we could ever do to deserve grace. God offers it through Jesus!

STEP 2: Explain to kids that when Jesus lived on earth, He showed grace to others. Present the monologue to the group, stopping and asking questions as directed.

STEP 3: Share these concepts:

- Everyone has sinned and deserves the punishment of death. We inherited sin from Adam, but we also choose to sin (Romans 3:23, Romans 5:12).
- Grace is giving someone something good that he or she doesn't deserve. God offers grace to us through Christ. Christ took our punishment by dying on the cross for sin (1 Corinthians 15:3-4).

- If we trust in Christ as Savior, God offers us the free gift of forgiveness from sin and eternal life that we don't deserve (Romans 6:23).
- After we trust in Jesus as Savior, we still sin. But every sin we have ever done or will do is already forgiven because of what Christ did for us. And because Jesus gives grace to us, we should show grace to others too (1 Corinthians 1:3-4, Colossians 3:13).

STEP 4: Follow up with Lesson Application questions and Sum It Up statements from the Large Group Guide.

Notes:



Freeze Frame Characters

INSTRUCTIONS: Choose a leader to act out one or both of the following monologues. Encourage the leader to be creative and full of expression as he or she presents the character in front of the club. If desired, the leader can dress like the character in biblical attire.

MONOLOGUE FOR ZACCHAEUS (LUKE 19:1-10)

Hi!

My name is Zacchaeus, but you can call me Zach. Man, have I got some news for you!

See, I used to have an important job as a tax collector. Sure, people owed money, but ... (whispers to the audience) I always charged more than they owed. I turned in the money they owed, and kept the rest for myself.

LEADER yells "CUT!" ZACCHAEUS hangs his head and freezes.

LEADER: Why did Zacchaeus NOT deserve grace? (Waits for responses. Possible answers: he was a tax collector who stole money from the people, he was greedy for more money, he was a sinner.)

LEADER yells "Action" to cue ZACCHAEUS to continue.

One day I heard the crowd murmur, "Jesus is coming!"

Jesus is coming! Boy, rumors were flying about Him! Some people said that He could cast out demons and heal the sick. Others said He could make the lame walk and the blind see. I ran to the road to catch a glimpse of this man. Maybe He would heal someone from our town!

Buuut ... there was a problem. See, I'm a little ... on the short side. And by the time I made it to the main road in the city, the crowds were so thick that I couldn't see anything.

I noticed a large tree nearby, and the next thing I knew I had the best view in the crowd from a branch that hung near the side of the road.

Soon I saw this Jesus. He walked closer and closer. He looked like a normal man to me, but as soon as

He came closer, He stopped.

He looked right up at me. "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down. I must stay at your house today," He said.

I about fell right out of the tree. This man — Jesus — knew my name! And not only that, He invited Himself over to my house.

Now, you've got to understand. Because of my job, not many people like me. Basically, I don't have friends. I have a lot of money and a nice home, but nobody EVER wants to come to MY house. Except for Jesus.

LEADER yells "CUT!" ZACCHAEUS hangs his head and freezes.

LEADER: What did Jesus do to show grace to the person? (Wait for responses. Possible answers: Jesus showed compassion to Zacchaeus and even went to his home — something that the rest of the people would not do because they thought it was wrong to eat with and spend time with sinners like Zacchaeus. Jesus offered salvation to him.)

LEADER yells "Action" to cue ZACCHAEUS to continue.

That day I learned that He was not just another man. He did many great and wonderful and amazing things but best of all, He loved me and offered me grace I didn't deserve. He offered me a way to have a relationship with God. Me, a tax collector and a sinner. I didn't deserve to have Jesus notice me and show me love. But I'm so glad He did



Freeze Frame Characters

INSTRUCTIONS: Choose a leader to act out one or both of the following monologues. Encourage the leader to be creative and full of expression as he or she presents the character in front of the club. If desired, the leader can dress like the character in biblical attire.

MONOLOGUE FOR THE SINFUL WOMAN (LUKE 7:36-50)

Hi, I am known in my city as a sinner. Some people don't even call me by my name. Some people just refer to me as a sinner. They don't want to have anything to do with me.

I have done many, many things that are not good, and I am not proud of the choices I have made. I am ashamed of the sins that I have done.

LEADER yells "CUT!" WOMAN hangs her head and freezes.

LEADER: Why did this woman NOT deserve grace? (Wait for responses. Possible answers: she had done many bad things, everyone in the city knew that she was a sinner, she had chosen to disobey God by living a sinful life.)

LEADER yells "Action" to cue the WOMAN to continue.

One day I heard that Jesus was coming to my town. Jesus! The one who had healed the sick and made the lame walk. The one who showed grace and mercy to sinners. Could He really care about me?! I dared to hope. Maybe, just maybe, Jesus could be the one who could help me. I heard from others around town that Jesus was going to the home of a Pharisee, one of the religious leaders of our day.

The Pharisees did not like me. To them, I was a filthy woman who had openly sinned. I knew that I was taking a huge chance going to the home of one of these leaders, but I just had to see Jesus. I brought a bottle of special fragrant oil. I quietly entered the home of the Pharisee and saw Jesus, reclining at the table.

I was unworthy to be in His presence. I was a

sinner. I began to weep and fell at His feet. I took the bottle of fragrant oil and carefully poured it out on His feet. I used my tears and my hair to wipe them.

The Pharisee looked at me with disgust. But Jesus told him that my sins were forgiven because of the great love that I showed to Jesus.

Could it be?! Could Jesus show me mercy and grace instead of giving me the punishment I deserve?! Could He truly forgive me for all the horrible sins I had committed?

Jesus turned to me and said, "Your sins are forgiven."

LEADER yells "CUT!" WOMAN hangs her head and freezes.

LEADER: What did Jesus do to show grace to the person? (Wait for responses. Possible answers: Jesus had compassion on her and let her touch His feet. He recognized her welcoming and loving actions and praised her for them in front of others. He forgave her and saved her from her sins.)

LEADER yells "Action" to cue WOMAN to continue.

Immediately, my soul was free. I knew then that this Jesus was the true Messiah. He was my Savior. He told me that it was my faith that saved me from my sin. My faith in Jesus freed me from the punishment of my sin. I was able to go in peace, knowing that Jesus offered grace to me, a sinful woman.

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Main Lesson (10 Minutes)

Option 2: Giving Grace

What You'll Need: Bibles, poster board or card stock, markers, paper, pens or pencils (*Leader's Note: Larger clubs may divide into smaller groups to complete the activity.*)

PREP: Bookmark Bibles to the following passages: Mark 2:1-12, Mark 10:46-52, and Luke 19:1-10.

Write each of the following phrases of this lesson's memory verse on a separate sheet of paper.

Ephesians 1:7

In Him

We have redemption

Through His blood

The forgiveness of sins (our trespasses),

According to the riches of His grace

STEP 1: Read or recite this week's memory verse, Ephesians 1:7. Repeat the verse a second time, pausing after each phrase.

Share these key concepts:

- When we trust Jesus as Savior, we are redeemed. That means we are freed from being a slave to sin.
- We have redemption and forgiveness from sin because Jesus gave His very life for us when He died on the cross for sin. This is God's grace to us!
- There is NOTHING we could ever do to deserve grace. God offers it through Jesus!

STEP 2: Divide kids into groups of two or three. Give each group a prepared sheet of paper that contains a phrase from this week's verse, along with card stock and markers. Give groups three minutes to come up with a creative way to present their reference or phrase of this week's memory verse, such as drawing a picture or creating a motion.

After three minutes, have the groups share their creative presentation in the correct order.

Share these key concepts:

- Everyone has sinned and deserves the punishment of death. We inherited sin from Adam, but we also choose to sin (Romans 3:23, Romans 5:12).
- Grace is giving someone something good that he or she doesn't deserve. God offers grace to us through Christ. Christ took our punishment by dying on the cross for sin (1 Corinthians 15:3-4).
- If we trust in Christ as Savior, God offers us the free gift of forgiveness from sin and eternal life that we don't deserve (Romans 6:23).
- After we trust in Jesus as Savior, we still sin. But every sin we have ever done or will do is already forgiven because of what Christ did for us. And because Jesus gives grace to us, we should show grace to others too (1 Corinthians 1:3-4, Colossians 3:13).

STEP 3: Remind kids that Jesus often showed grace to others while He lived on earth. He healed the sick and forgave people's sins.

Remind kids that we can follow Jesus' example and show grace to others.

Ask the following questions:

- How can you show grace to the annoying kid who bugs you each day at school?
- How can you show grace to a younger sibling who always gets into your stuff?
- How can you show grace when your mom or dad loses their cool with you or your siblings?
- How can you show grace to a teammate who messes up and costs your team the game?

STEP 4: Tell kids that it isn't always easy to give grace, but remind them that God keeps giving grace to us. Close in prayer, thanking God for Jesus' example of showing grace. Ask Him to help you and your kids continue to give grace to others in their lives.

STEP 5: Follow up with Lesson Application questions and Sum It Up statements from the Large Group Guide.