

SECTION
4.1

What Is Grace?



Introduction Activity (5 Minutes)

Option 1: What Do They Deserve?

What You'll Need: Whiteboard and markers

STEP 1: Read the following part of the scenario to the class.

Alyssa received two candy bars from her piano teacher. She shared one with her brother, Ben, and put the other one in the drawer of her nightstand.

The next day after school, she noticed a candy bar wrapper in her trash can. Sure enough, the extra candy bar in her nightstand was missing.

She asked Ben if he had taken her candy bar. He didn't say anything at first, but then he told her the truth: he had eaten her candy bar.

Ask: "What does Ben deserve?" Guide kids to see that Ben deserved punishment.

STEP 2: Read the second part of the scenario:

At first, Alyssa was angry with her brother and wanted to yell at him. She thought, How could he do this after she had been so kind and shared a bar with him yesterday? She wanted to get even and steal something that belonged to Ben. She wanted to make Ben pay for this by buying her a new candy bar. But then she remembered that sometimes she does wrong things to Ben too. That thought helped her stop being so angry at Ben.

Even though Ben deserved to have Alyssa treat him the same way he had treated her, she decided to give him grace. She didn't yell or try to get even or make him buy her a new candy bar. She forgave him!

Ask: "What did Ben receive?" Guide kids to see that Ben received grace.

STEP 3: Share these key concepts:

- Grace is giving someone something he or she doesn't deserve. No one deserves God's grace, but we all need it.
- We were enemies with God because of sin, yet God showed us grace by sending Jesus to die for our sin.
- In today's lesson, we will learn how we are made right with God because of His grace.

STEP 4: Transition into the main lesson by opening in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to help you and your kids understand what grace is.

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Introduction Activity (5 Minutes)

Option 2: Sin Versus Grace

Notes:

What You'll Need: White copy paper, clear page protectors, dry erase and permanent markers, paper towels

PREP: Place a sheet of white paper inside a clear page protector. Tear off paper towels from the roll, and write the word "grace" with a permanent marker on each towel. Prepare a page protector and paper towel for each kid.

STEP 1: Give each kid a prepared page protector. Have kids use dry-erase markers to draw a bubble outline of a person on their page protector.

Ask: "What are some common sins that a T&T kid might do?" (Possible answers might include lying, stealing, cheating, being unkind to others, hitting, disobeying parents.)

Have kids write several sins on their drawings.

ASK: "If a kid chose to sin in one of these ways, why would he or she deserve punishment?"

STEP 2: Give each kid a paper towel and point out the word "grace" on the towel. Tell them to wipe the sins from their drawings.

Share these key concepts:

- Grace is giving someone something he or she doesn't deserve. No one deserves God's grace, but we all need it.
- We were enemies with God because of sin, yet God showed us grace by sending Jesus to die for our sin.
- In today's lesson, we will learn how we are made right with God because of His grace.

STEP 3: Transition into the main lesson by opening in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to help you and your kids understand what grace is.

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Main Lesson (10 Minutes)

Option 1: Faith and Grace

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

PREP: Fold sheets of paper into thirds, one per kid.

STEP 1: Give each kid a prepared sheet of paper and distribute markers and colored pencils among the kids. Read Romans 5:10 aloud.

Share these key concepts:

- We deserve God's wrath.
- Before we trust Christ as Savior, we are enemies of God because of our sin.
- We deserve punishment, wrath, and separation from God forever (Romans 5:10).

Draw kids' attention to first section of their papers. Ask them to draw a picture of or describe themselves as an enemy of God.

STEP 2: Remind kids that the story doesn't end here.

Share these key concepts:

- God gives grace through Jesus Christ.
- We can do absolutely nothing on our own to earn or deserve our salvation.
- God gave us grace through Jesus Christ. All we need to do is place our faith in what Christ has done for us (Romans 5:8).

In the second section of their papers, encourage kids to draw a cross and write the word "grace."

STEP 3: Explain to kids that when we trust Jesus as our Savior, God forgives ALL of our sin.

- We are justified when we trust Jesus as Savior.

- Because Christ was innocent and paid for our sin, when God looks at those who have trusted in Jesus as Savior, He sees us as if we have never sinned (Romans 5:9).

Encourage them to draw a picture to show that they are justified on the last section of their sheet.

STEP 4: Read or recite this week's memory verse, Romans 8:1. Repeat the verse a second time, pausing after each phrase.

Share these key concepts:

- We have peace with God.
- When we trust Jesus as Savior, we have peace with God. We are saved from God's wrath, and we are no longer His enemies.
- We don't have to fear punishment for our sin, and we can look forward to heaven forever (Romans 8:1).

STEP 5: Give kids an opportunity to talk with a leader if they have questions about this week's lesson.

STEP 6: Follow up with Lesson Application questions and Sum It Up statements from the Large Group Guide.

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Main Lesson (10 Minutes)

Option 2: God's Grace to Me

What You'll Need: Bible, paper, pens or pencils
(Leader's Note: Larger clubs may divide into smaller groups to complete the activity.)

PREP: Ahead of time, ask one or two leaders or special guests to share how they came to Christ. Ask them to share the following points in their testimony:

What you were like before you were saved?

What helped you realize you were a sinner and needed to be saved?

What did God do for you so you could be saved?

How did your life changed after salvation?

STEP 1: Review the definition of grace with the kids. Remind them that God offers His grace to everyone.

STEP 2: Ask the leader(s) or guest(s) to share their testimonies with the group.

Share these concepts:

- We deserve God's wrath.
- Before we trust Christ as Savior, we are enemies of God because of our sin.
- We deserve punishment, wrath, and separation from God forever (Romans 5:10).
- God gives grace through Jesus Christ.
- We can do absolutely nothing on our own to earn or deserve our salvation.
- God gave us grace through Jesus Christ. All we need to do is place our faith in what Christ has done for us (Romans 5:8).
- We are justified when we trust Jesus as Savior.
- Because Christ was innocent and paid for our sin, when God looks at those who have trusted in Jesus as Savior, He sees us as if we have never sinned (Romans 5:9).

STEP 3: Read or recite this week's memory verse, Romans 8:1. Repeat the verse a second time, pausing after each phrase.

Share these key concepts:

- We have peace with God.
- When we trust Jesus as Savior, we have peace with God. We are saved from God's wrath, and we are no longer His enemies.
- We don't have to fear punishment for our sin, and we can look forward to heaven forever (Romans 8:1).

STEP 4: If time allows, play the following game to help kids memorize this week's verse.

Have kids form a circle, facing forward. Say the first two words of the verse (There is). As you say the next two words (therefore now), tell kids to jump around to where everyone is facing out of the circle. Continue the pattern of jumping to face forward in the circle (no condemnation), jumping to face out (to those), jumping to face in (who are), jumping to face out (in Jesus Christ).

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

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