

SECTION
4.2 | **Grace and Law**



Introduction Activity (5 Minutes)

Option 1: Guilty of All

What You'll Need: Dominoes, sturdy table

PREP: Set up a path of dominoes (at least 10 dominoes in the path) on a sturdy table. Make sure to set up the dominoes so they will fall if the first domino is knocked down.

STEP 1: Ask a volunteer to try to knock the first domino toward the others without knocking down any of the other dominoes in the pattern. The volunteer cannot move the first domino from its spot; he or she can only knock it toward the other dominoes.

STEP 2: Ask: Why does it seem impossible to complete the task?

STEP 3: Share these key concepts:

- These dominoes represent how God views sin.
- If we sin, or break only one law one time, (knock the first domino into the other dominoes in the path) it is as if we are guilty of breaking all of God's laws.
- In this week's lesson, we will learn how God's grace offers us salvation from breaking God's laws and allows us to become more like Christ.

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

Notes:

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Introduction Activity (5 Minutes)

Option 2: Rules of the Road

Notes:

What You'll Need: Whiteboard and markers

STEP 1: Ask kids to list several rules a driver must obey (e.g., obeying the speed limit, no texting while driving, wear a seatbelt, obey street signs). Record their answers on the board.

Ask the following questions:

- Have you ever seen anyone break one of these rules?
- How many people would lose their driver's license by going one mile over the speed limit?
- How many people would lose their driver's license by breaking just one of the laws on the board just one time?

STEP 2: Share these key concepts:

- There are a lot of laws about driving. The Old Testament contains many laws God gave to the Israelites. He told them they would be righteous if they kept them all. The problem is, they couldn't keep them all.
- Every person has broken God's law, and we are all guilty of sin because breaking just one law means we deserve the punishment of death.
- But God's love is so great that even though we were sinners, by grace He gave us the opportunity to be free from the punishment of death and hell. This grace means that we don't have to keep all the laws to be right with God. He made another way through Christ.

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

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Main Lesson (10 Minutes)

Option 1: Have you ever?

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

STEP 1: Distribute paper and pencils or pens. Then instruct the kids to fold their paper in half. Ask three volunteers to each give you one family rule from their home (e.g., 8:30 bedtime, no electronics until homework is done, one hour of video games on a school day). Share the following key concepts:

- In the Old Testament, God gave His people, the Israelites, more than 600 rules, or laws, to follow. They had to obey all of those laws all the time in order to be righteous in God's sight.
- It was a sin to break any one of God's laws.

If the answer is "no," then have them place a check mark on that side of the folded sheet.

Ask the following questions:

- Have you ever disobeyed or even thought about disobeying your parents or guardians?
- Have you ever said mean words to someone or had a mean thought about someone?
- Have you ever lied? (Remind kids that stretching the truth even a little is the same as telling a lie.)

If necessary, ask more questions like these related to the other commandments until everyone has at least one checkmark under "yes."

Share these key concepts:

- We are sinners.
- Nobody can keep all of God's laws perfectly. Even if we were to break just one law, we are guilty as if we had broken them all (Romans 3:10).

- Jesus is perfect. When He lived on earth, He kept all of God's law perfectly. Because He is fully God and fully man, He is the only one who could take the punishment for sin (Romans 5:21).
- Once we trust Christ, we are justified. We also receive the gift of the Holy Spirit to live inside of us. This is by God's grace through our faith in Jesus Christ! We did nothing to deserve these things (Romans 3:24, Galatians 3:11).

STEP 2: Read or recite this week's memory verse, Galatians 3:11. Repeat the verse a second time, pausing after each phrase.

Share these key concepts:

- Following God's laws, or His rules in the Bible, isn't what saves us.
- The only way we can be saved is through faith in Jesus Christ.

STEP 3: Share with kids that even after you trusted Jesus as your Savior, you aren't perfect. But remind them that God gives those who trust Jesus a special gift: the Holy Spirit!

Share these concepts:

- The Holy Spirit helps believers resist sin and start becoming more like Christ. This is grace.
- We allow the Holy Spirit to work in us when we read God's Word, pray, go to church, and worship God. This process is called sanctification (Romans 8:5).

STEP 4: Remind kids that God's grace is a gift that is offered to all of us. Encourage them to talk to a leader if they have questions about today's lesson.

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

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4.2

Grace and Law



Main Lesson (10 Minutes)

Option 2: A Picture of God's Grace

What You'll Need: Glass jars, measuring cups, water, bleach, red and blue food coloring, a spoon, pens or pencils, paper (*Leader's Note: Larger clubs may divide into smaller groups to complete the activity.*)

PREP: Gather the items listed above. Before class, fill one jar with 1 cup of water. Pour one-half cup of bleach in the second jar.

Place the prepared jars, spoon, and food coloring on a table in front of the classroom. (Note: If you have a large club, prepare two sets of jars, along with the other material.)

STEP 1: Display both jars to the class. Explain that the jar of water represents a person. Add one drop of red food coloring, which represents one sin that the person committed (e.g., telling one lie, disobeying parents one time). Gently stir the water.

Share these key concepts:

Just as the one drop of food coloring affected the color of the water, breaking just one of God's laws makes us guilty, just as if we had broken them all (Romans 3:10).

STEP 2: Carefully pour the bleach into the red water and gently stir the water.

Share these key concepts:

- Jesus is perfect. When He lived on earth, He kept all of God's law perfectly. Because He is fully God and fully man, He is the only one who could take the punishment for sin (Romans 5:21).
- Once we trust Christ, we are justified. We also receive the gift of the Holy Spirit to live inside of us. This is by God's grace through our faith in Jesus Christ! We did nothing to deserve these things (Romans 3:24, Galatians 3:11).

STEP 3: Read or recite this week's memory verse, Galatians 3:11. Repeat the verse a second time, pausing after each phrase.

Share these key concepts:

- Following God's laws, or His rules in the Bible, isn't what saves us.
- The only way we can be saved is through faith in Jesus Christ.

STEP 4: Point out to kids that the water is clear (or becoming clearer).

Share these key concepts:

- Once we trust Christ, we are justified. Justification means to be judged by God as innocent and righteous.
- We also receive the gift of the Holy Spirit to live inside of us. This is by God's grace through our faith in Jesus Christ! We did nothing to deserve these things (Romans 3:24, Galatians 3:11).

STEP 5: Add a drop of blue food coloring. Share with kids that even after you trusted Jesus as your Savior, you aren't perfect. But even though we still sin, we are still justified; God still sees us as righteous. (Gently stir the water; it will gradually become clear again.)

Share these concepts:

- The Holy Spirit helps believers resist sin and start becoming more like Christ. This is grace.
- We allow the Holy Spirit to work in us when we read God's Word, pray, go to church, and worship God. This process is called sanctification (Romans 8:5).

STEP 6: Remind kids that God's grace is a gift that is offered to all of us. Encourage them to talk to a leader if they have questions about today's lesson.

STEP 7: Follow up with Lesson Application questions and Sum It Up statements from the Large Group Guide.