

This Is Amazing Grace

Bible Story: This Is Amazing Grace (Grace is a Gift) • *Ephesians 2:8-9*

Bottom Line: Jesus is a gift for everyone.

Memory Verse: *God's grace has saved you because of your faith in Christ. Your salvation doesn't come from anything you do. It is God's gift. Ephesians 2:8 (NirV)*

Life App: Faith—Trusting in what you can't see because of what you can see

Basic Truth: I can trust God no matter what.

Small Group

Hot Box Riddle

What You Need: "Hot Box Riddle Clues" Activity Page, plastic food storage container, oven mitts

What You Do:

- Sit together in a circle.
- Show kids the container with the "Hot Box Riddle Clues" and explain that it contains several clues about one object, and they get to guess what that object is.
- Tell them that they only get ONE guess so they should wait until all of the clues have been read before deciding what it is.
- Assure them that it is something they have seen and are familiar with.
- Tell kids to pretend that the container is very HOT and to pass it around the circle as fast as they can so they don't burn their hands. (*Provide a pair of oven mitts if desired.*)
- When they hear you say, "STOP THE BOX!", the person holding the container may open it and take out one of the slips of paper to read.
- Assist with reading as needed.
- Repeat until all of the clues have been read then let kids share their guesses.

What You Say:

"If you guessed that the clues were about a GIFT, you are exactly right! Raise your hand if you enjoy getting gifts. I think EVERYONE loves gifts. Sometimes a gift is given to us to say, 'Thank you,' when we've been kind to someone or as a reward for doing a good job. Those are gifts that we earn. But there is another kind of gift that's better than anything we've earned or been given for our birthday or Christmas. In fact, it's the most amazing gift imaginable and I can't wait for you to hear about it.

[Transition] Let's go watch this week's Bible Story Video."

Everybody In

What You Need: Flat bedsheet

What You Do:

- Spread the sheet out on the floor.
- Tell kids to find a place to stand on the sheet then, when everyone has found a spot, tell them to shout out, "Everybody in!"
- Ask the kids to step off the sheet then fold over one of the corners to make the area a little smaller.
- Once again, invite the kids to find a spot on the sheet to stand then shout out, "Everybody in!"

- Continue folding the sheet into smaller areas for kids to stand until it can no longer fit everyone in.
- Wrap up with the conversation suggestion below, then repeat the activity as time and interest allow.

What You Say:

“God wants everyone to join Him in heaven someday. That’s why He sent Jesus. Even though **[Bottom Line] Jesus is a gift for everyone**, not everyone will believe in Him. But God still loves all people everywhere and offers them the gift of His Son, Jesus—the best gift ever!” **[Make it Personal] (Tell kids about a gift you once received that meant a lot to you. Compare it with the gift of grace and how much better grace is than any other gift we could receive because it comes from the One who created us.)**

Memory Verse

What You Need: Bibles

What You Do:

- Give each kid a Bible then use the Navigation Tip below to help kids locate this month’s Memory Verse found in Ephesians 2:8.

Finding verses with K – 2nd graders: Guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. (Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.) When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find Ephesians in the list under “New Testament.” You can help by telling them that Ephesians starts with the letters “EP”. When the kids find Ephesians, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find Ephesians. Help the kids find the page. When they find Ephesians, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 2. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 8 in chapter 2.

- Read the verse several times together.
- Explain that Ephesians 2:8 tells us that going to heaven isn’t about being good. It’s about asking Jesus to forgive us and to be our Savior.

NOTE: Each week, unpack the verse by explaining what saved/salvation, grace, and faith mean. Be reminded that kids this age won’t fully understand what these words mean—and the meaning will change for them as they develop a relationship with God. Plant the seeds of understanding by defining and using these foundational words as kids learn Ephesians 2:8 this month. Refer back to these definitions as you teach this month’s memory verse.

- *Saved/salvation—being forgiven and having life forever with God*
- *Grace—God’s goodness to us based on His love, especially when we don’t deserve it*
- *Faith—believing that the story of Jesus is true and believing that what Jesus did was for me and can change me*

What You Say:

“This month’s Memory Verse tells us that salvation is a gift God wants to give us. Just like you didn’t do anything to earn this gift I just gave you, there’s nothing you can DO to earn salvation. God’s gift didn’t come in a box with a ribbon—it came in Jesus. We can receive God’s gift when we believe in Jesus. Your white ribbon bookmark can remind you that God sent Jesus so that we can have forgiveness for the sin in our lives AND have a relationship with God. That’s how Jesus shows us God’s love and grace. **[Bottom Line] Jesus is a gift for everyone.**”

I can be large, or I can be small.

I can cost a lot or nothing at all.

I can be given and taken at the same time.

People smile when they see me.

Everyone likes me.

I often hide under paper.

You might jump up and down when you see me.

I show up at special occasions.

What to Do:

Print and provide one for each small group.

Hot Box Riddle Clues

July 2020, Week 1, Small Group K-1
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READ ROMANS 6:8-14

DAY 1

As you read through Romans 6:8-14, cross out the following words: *died, death, dead, die, sin, evil, master, rule.*

Go back and read it again, and this time, circle the following words: *live, raised, power, alive, life, right, grace, free.*

What an amazing gift God's grace is to us! Death is no longer, and instead, we can experience eternal life, God's power and freedom!

Thank God for the gift of grace that is for all of us!

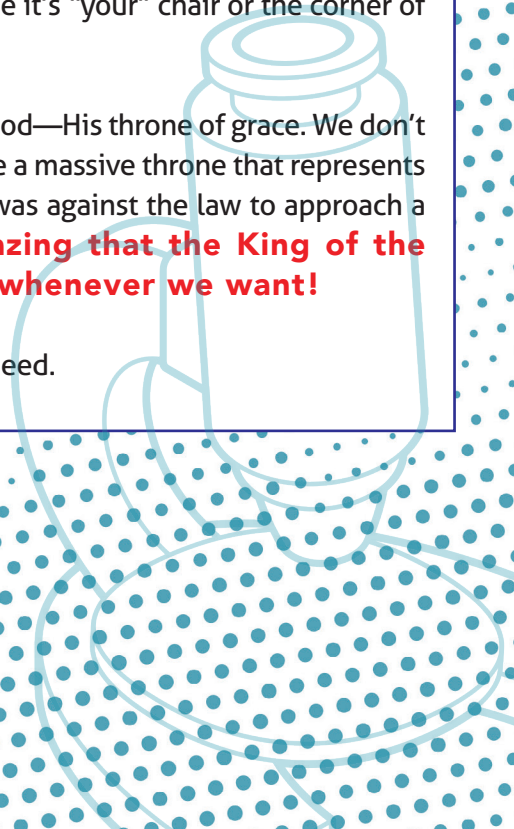
READ HEBREWS 4:16

DAY 2

Take this card and find a seat at your favorite spot in your house. Maybe it's "your" chair or the corner of the couch.

The writer of Hebrews talks about a very special chair that belongs to God—His throne of grace. We don't know if it's a literal throne or just the idea of one, but it's cool to picture a massive throne that represents all the love, grace, and mercy God has toward us. In ancient times, it was against the law to approach a king sitting on his throne, unless he had invited you first. **How amazing that the King of the universe has invited ALL of us to approach His throne whenever we want!**

Ask God to help you boldly approach His throne and ask for what you need.



READ 2 CORINTHIANS 12:9

DAY 3

What is something heavy in your room that you can't pick up by yourself? Ask someone stronger than you to come and help you. Are you able to lift it now?

What is something you struggle with? Have you ever asked God to show up and help you with it? Especially when it comes to things we know God wants us to do, like obeying our parents, being kind to others, being honest, and showing honor to others. If we are having a hard time doing those things, that gives God a chance to show up and help us. His grace means we're forgiven when we mess up, and we're strengthened when we're weak.

Know that you don't have to do it all alone!

READ JOHN 1:16-17

DAY 4

What do each of these traffic signs, or rules of the road, mean?

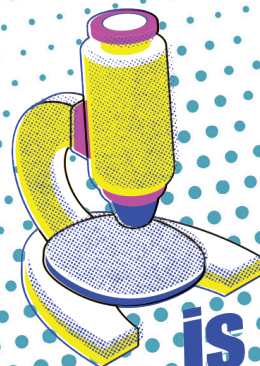


Have you ever thought of rules as grace? It's true though, rules keep us safe, help us know how to live well, and keep us from hurting ourselves and others.

God's rules, or law, are the same. He didn't have to give us rules, but He did because He loves us. But it didn't stop there. Because He also gave us Jesus! That means even when we mess up and don't follow the rules, we still have grace and mercy available to us through Jesus.

Thank God for His grace upon grace.

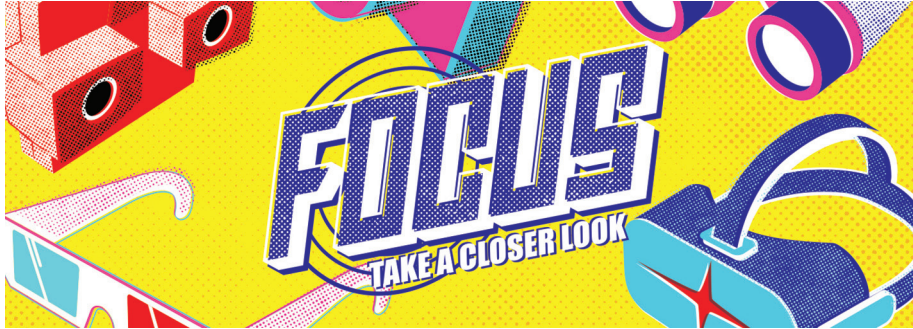
Answers: Yield, railroad crossing, school zone, winding road, slippery when wet



JESUS
is a gift for
everyone.

JULY 2020

ELEMENTARY



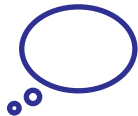
WEEK ONE

GRACE IS A GIFT • EPHESIANS 2:8-9



SAY THIS:

JESUS IS A GIFT
FOR EVERYONE.



REMEMBER THIS:

"God's grace has saved
you because of your faith in
Christ. Your salvation doesn't
come from anything you do.
It is God's gift."

EPHESIANS 2:8, NIV



DO THIS:



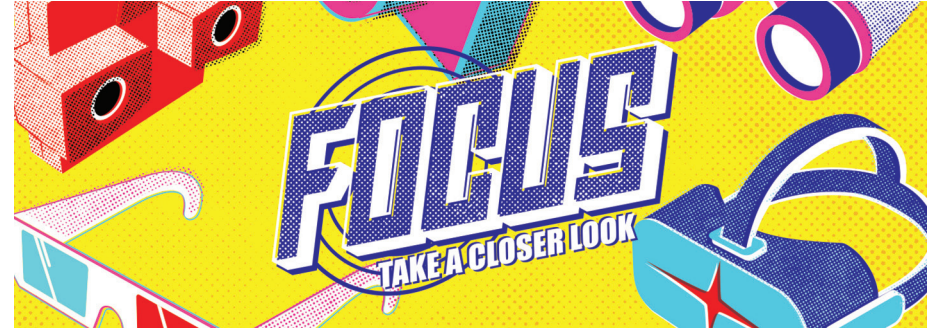
Wrap up a special gift or
treat and give it to your child.
Tell them, "Use this gift as
a reminder that Jesus is the
greatest gift of all."

FAITH:

TRUSTING IN WHAT YOU CAN'T SEE
BECAUSE OF WHAT YOU CAN SEE

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BE KIND TO YOURSELF

By Sarah Bragg

"I'm a failure."
 "I'll never get it right."
 "I'm unlovable."

These are statements we would never say to someone we love, yet we freely say them to ourselves. And our kids do, too.

It's important to help our kids learn how to speak to themselves like they would to a close friend. We need to help them learn compassionate self-talk.

Self-compassion can be learned and developed over time. You can start by helping your kid retrain the voice in their head—which honestly, may begin with you retraining the voice in your own head.

Here's a simple phrase:

"Be kind to yourself."

When you look in the mirror and don't like what you see, say, "Be kind to yourself." When you mess up, burn dinner again, fail to close the deal, or miss the event, say, "Be kind to yourself."

Start with you. Let your kids watch you show yourself kindness. And then when they mess up, fail the test, get cut from the team, say to them, "Be kind to yourself. We all make mistakes or have moments when we aren't chosen. But that doesn't change our identity. It doesn't define who we are. What would you say to a good friend in the same situation?"

Start there. And continue to beat that drum of self-compassion.

I began saying the phrase "Be kind to yourself" to my girls after watching their response to "failure." They would cry and quit. So every time they messed up, I came behind them and said, "Be kind to yourself."

One night after I burned dinner, I felt the frustration rise in me. I reacted towards myself with shame, but behind me I heard a voice say, "Be kind to yourself, Mama. We all make mistakes. It will be okay."

The months of retraining the voice was beginning to show through. We are all humans who are bound to mess up or not get it right every time, but that doesn't mean we are less than.

Henry James said, "Three things in human life are important: the first is to be kind; the second is to be kind; and the third is to be kind."

Let's make kindness a key building block to our kids' identities, and ours too. When we live out of a place of kindness towards ourselves, then we can pass that kindness on to others.

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