



Construction Crew/ Kid Builders!

Where worship and fun collide!

525 Garden Drive, Marysville, Ohio 43040

Where's the Grace!

Memory Verse: ..."God opposes the proud, but gives *grace* to the humble." **James 4:6**

Lesson Objective: This lesson is designed to help children understand the concept of grace, as well as develop an appreciation for God's grace. The grace of God is one of the greatest gifts short of Him sending His Son to give His life for all our sins. Nothing but God's grace holds back the flood of wrath that is due each one of us. By the end of this lesson, students should have a deeper appreciation for God's grace upon their lives, in addition to the salvation that He has extended to them.

Requirements for the lesson:

1. A large, well decorated box with a slit in the top.
2. Pieces of paper that say "My Life" (provided)

Object Lessons and Lead-in to the Lesson:

"Special Gift!" This is a simple illustration that allows students to participate in receiving God's grace. They can see how they receive God's grace for giving Him their lives totally.

Part 1 - Show the students the box. Tell them how this will be a very special gift for someone today. Continue to build up the expectation of the gift, telling how there is nothing finer, more wanted, and more valuable than this. It's simply priceless!

Part 2 - Remind them that God pours out His grace as He sees their hearts, not their deeds. If they want a lot of His grace, they must have a pure, selfless, and willing heart. Hand each student one of the "MY LIFE" papers. Explain that if they want God's grace to increase on their lives, then they must give it to Him completely (explain what that means). If they are ready to do that, then they may come up and put their slip in the box. You may mention that if there are children who are not ready, that it's OK. They can put the slip into their pockets and take them home. The slip will remind them of the lesson. You can also mention that it's never too late, and they can do the same thing at home, because the box is just a *symbolic gesture* (something to show God the way we feel in our heart). It's the heart-prayer that counts. After the children have come up to the box, be sure to pray over them, that they may receive the fullness of God's grace.

Lesson:

DO THE OBJECT LESSON: **“Special Gift!”, Part 1**

1. Giving Good Gifts

People give gifts all the time. They like to decorate them—just like the one we have here today.

QUESTION: Why do people give gifts--especially really good ones?

- a. Special occasions: Birthday, Christmas, etc.
- b. They are thankful for something a person did for them.
- c. It brings everyone joy, pleasure, and delight--both giver and receiver.
- d. They know it will make someone happy.
- e. It's something a person wants.
- f. They just want to do something nice for somebody.

Everyone likes to get good gifts.

QUESTION: What is a good gift that someone gave you lately? *(Let the children respond)*

QUESTION: Why did you get the gift? *(Occasion? Because someone just loves them? For being good?)*

QUESTION: How did it make you feel?

QUESTION: Did someone ever give you a gift even though you didn't deserve it? If so, why do you think they did it?

Do you know that someone did give a very important gift to all of us and that none of us deserve it. Actually, it was more like getting a lot of gifts all at once. He gave so many that it was like getting all of your Christmas and birthday presents that you ever got all at one time! Do you want to know what this gift is? Let's see what the Bible says.

READ: Romans 3:23, 24; and Romans 5:2

Romans 3:23, 24 ...all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his **grace** through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. ¹

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Romans 5:2 ...our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this **grace** in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. ²

These are very important scriptures because they tell us about this wonderful gift that God has given us. It's called *grace*. God gave us something to keep us from being punished for all of the sin that we have done in our lives. It's a gift for each single *thing* we have done wrong, and for every *time* we've done it. It's kind of like several gifts for birthdays and Christmas, only instead of good times, they are for bad times. We don't deserve God's grace, but He loves you so much that He is willing to give grace just because we love *Him*.

When the Israelites sinned before Jesus came to the world, they didn't have God's grace. They were punished because God's wrath (His holy power) would come against them. They would become so bad that God would get very angry. Sometimes the earth would just open up and swallow them whole when this happened. Thank God we now have His grace!

QUESTION: What is a gift exchange? Have you ever been part of a gift exchange?

God giving us grace is like a gift exchange. *We* give Him our life, love, and obedience, and *He* gives us grace. We have to do the first gift giving, and then He gives us His gift.

Sometimes giving someone a gift isn't always fun.

QUESTION: Have you ever given someone a gift and they acted like they didn't appreciate it or even care that you gave it to them? How did it make you feel?

- a. *You wanted to take it back*
- b. *You got mad*
- c. *You don't want to give them anything else*

It's no fun giving a gift to others who do not appreciate it.

2. Appreciating God's Grace

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It's also hard to give people things when you do all the giving and never get anything back. God doesn't like this either. We can't expect God just to give His grace and not get anything in return. When God gives His grace, He gives it freely, but people can't get His grace if they do not give Him their lives by believing in Jesus. We do not get His grace until we give Him "ourselves" first.

God also doesn't like it when we take his grace and act like we don't care by sinning all the time. Remember that you can't fool God. He knows if you are serious or not. If we say we love Jesus, but we keep doing the same old sins all of the time, then we are lying to God. The Bible says so (1 John 2:4). We must be very careful to appreciate God's grace and to thank Him for it all of the time.

3. God Gave a Priceless Gift

Sometimes people give gifts that they can't afford. They will do without other things they need so that they can buy an expensive gift for others. We call this a sacrifice.

QUESTION: Did you ever see someone give an expensive gift that they couldn't afford, but they sacrificed and gave it anyway?

QUESTION: How do you think it made them feel to give such a great gift?

- a. Very satisfied
- b. Like they did something very special
- c. Happy inside

QUESTION: Have you ever made a sacrifice and gave a gift that you couldn't afford?

a. Jesus: God's Sacrifice

God gave up the most important thing to Him in the universe just so we could be free from sin, and have grace. It was His precious son Jesus. He sent Jesus to die a painful death on the cross just so we would not have to die for our sins. Think about that. He sent Jesus to die on a cross for us. That is a sacrifice! Imagine how hard it would be for your parents to send you to die on a cross. It would tear them to pieces inside. God wants us to appreciate what He did, and what Jesus did on the cross for us. Don't ever take His wonderful grace without thanking Him for it.

READ: 2 Corinthians 8:9. *For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.* ³

Jesus actually gave something that was very precious to Himself—His own life. Think about this: Would you give up your life for a friend so that he or she could live?

Have you ever heard of someone giving a part of their own body to someone else so that the other person could live? Sometimes people give up something called a kidney. We have two, but we can live with just one. But we can't live without *both*. So when someone has both of their kidneys go bad, then someone else may give them one of theirs. We can't do that with our life. When someone dies, they're just plain dead. That's why Jesus' giving us His life is so special.

b. The Great Gift

God gave us a great gift when Jesus died on a cross for our sins.

QUESTION: Why do you think He did that for us since we didn't deserve to be forgiven?

- a. He loves us
- b. He wanted to save us
- c. He wanted to give us a great gift--ETERNAL LIFE

Even though Jesus died for us, there is still good news. We know that Jesus didn't stay "dead". He was able to rise from the dead and go see His friends. We know He lives in our hearts if we are saved by His grace (Ephesians 1:7).

4. God's Grace At Work

God's grace toward us is greater when we say that we need and depend on him. We do this by appreciating His gift--the sacrifice of His Son for our lives. When we are weak, then He is strong.

QUESTION: What do you think He means by being weak? *(We let Jesus control our lives. We let Him call the shots.)*

The Bible says God gives each person grace as God sees fit (Ephesians 4:7).

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QUESTION:

What do we do to receive God's **grace**?

- a. Ask Jesus to come into our lives
- b. Thank Him--daily!
- c. Praise Him
- d. Appreciate His gift
- e. Live for Him
- f. Be humble, because we are only saved because of Jesus' dying in our place!

What takes God's **grace** from us?

- a. *Not* thanking Him
- b. *Not* praising Him
- c. Taking His gift for granted
- d. Living selfishly for ourselves
- e. Pride in our own lives
- f. Refuse Jesus to come into our hearts

4. Grace is Power Over Satan

We are very fortunate today. We have power over the old devil and he can't infect us—unless we let him.

READ: Romans 16:19,20.

Everyone has heard about your obedience, so I am full of joy over you; but I want you to be wise about what is good, and innocent about what is evil. The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you. ⁴

When you keep God's grace in your life, then you can stomp on the enemy. God's grace is what lets us give the devil the raspberries, because we don't belong to him or his sin. Our father is God, and He's a big daddy. He watches out for His kids!

5. God's Love For Us

God loves us and wants to take care of all of our needs.

DO THE OBJECT LESSON: ***"Special Gift!" Part 2***

(Pass out the slips of paper that say, "My live" on them.)

We have learned today about the very special gift that God gave us through His son Jesus. Who would like to give Jesus the gift of there own life so that God can give them the greatest gift apart from His Son--the gift of **grace**?

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Lesson 26, Equipping Series
Deral Carson

(If any in your class do not want to participate in bringing their slip up and putting it in the box, let them know that you do not think badly of them. However, have them put the slip of paper in their pocket. Ask them to take it home and put it in a safe place. It will be a reminder to them when they see it later that they still have a commitment to make. Do make this point clear: Unless we give our life to Jesus, we do not have God's grace over our life. The devil is free to do whatever he wants with us, and that we will not go to heaven without Jesus in our hearts. We do this by allowing Jesus into our hearts, and giving Him our lives.)

(Have the class bring their slips up and put them in the box. Pray over them that God will pour His grace out upon all of them.)

After The Fact!

You may want to think of something the students can make in class, and then give it to someone as a gift. Remind them that when they give it from the heart—like God does His grace—that they will feel especially good inside.

My Life	My Life
My Life	My Life
My Life	My Life
My Life	My Life
My Life	My Life
My Life	My Life
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