

LESSON OVERVIEW

Big Idea: We can't brag about God's grace.

Key Question: Why can't we brag about grace?

Memory Verse: "Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it." **Ephesians 2:9**

Overview: We're continuing in our series called "Get Rich". We're not talking about getting rich with money. We're talking about being rich in God's love. We're looking at the book of Ephesians and some important lessons Paul teaches about the benefits of having a relationship with God. We've already learned that when we put our trust in Jesus, we are adopted into God's family. We become a child of God and get all the benefits of being in God's family; protection, blessings, and heaven. We've also learned that we should get to know God more so we can understand how great he is. Today, we're going to talk about the riches that come from God's grace. The word grace means gift. God's gift of grace means he is kind and forgiving towards us. Now, notice the important word gift. God gives us grace, not because we've earned it by doing good things or looking really good. It's a gift he simply offers us because he loves us. All we can do is receive the gift. We do that by putting our trust in Jesus. That's it! It's simple. That's why we shouldn't ever boast about our relationship with God. We can't earn God's love and forgiveness. It's all about Jesus and what he chose to do for us.

CLASSROOM AGENDA

- 5 min **PLAY:** Begin working on Activity Page #1.
- 5 min **WARM UP:** What's your biggest accomplishment so far? (playing an instrument, winning a trophy in sports or an award for an essay or art project) How hard did you have to work for it?
- 5 min **PREVIEW:** Write out the Big Idea and Memory Verse and Key Question on a whiteboard. Have the kids copy it down on Activity Page #1. (if applicable)
- 20 min **LARGE GROUP:** Gather for songs and videos with other kids. Then return to small group to finish this guide.
- 5 min **RECAP:** Read the **Lesson Overview** from the Teacher's Guide to the class and then **answer** the KEY QUESTION.
- 5 min **EXPLORE:** Read [Psalm 86:15](#). What does this verse say about God? How has God shown you his grace, love and faithfulness?
- 10 min **PLAY:** Do the group activity from Activity Page #2.
- 5 min **CLOSE:**
 - ☐ Share prayer requests and pray as a class.
 - ☐ Encourage kids to use the Family Guide at home with their parents.

TEACHER TIPS

Don't forget that you set the tone for your kids. Smile. Have fun. Pursue God together.

We work hard to be good at something. We put a lot of time and energy into it. But we can't earn God's love and forgiveness. His love and forgiveness are gifts he gives us and it's not something we can work really hard to earn.

Answer: Grace is a gift God offers to us free of charge.

When you give someone a gift, you do it because you love them and want to show them how much you care about them. You don't make them do a lot of stuff for you before you give them a gift. If that were the case, your gift would be more like a payment. This is how God's grace works. His grace (**kind and forgiving**) is a gift he gives us because he loves us. We don't have to do stuff to earn it. It's simply a gift God offers us. All we can do is accept the gift by trusting in Jesus.

Bonus Questions: What does grace mean? (gift of kindness and forgiveness) How do we accept the gift?

4-5th: Why does it matter that God's grace is a gift and not something we can earn? (Our focus is on God and how great he is, not on ourselves or the great things we think we've done).

God is **compassionate** (cares about us and hates to see us sad) and full of **mercy** (chooses forgiveness over punishment). He's slow to be **angry** and full of **love** and **faithfulness** (he'll never let us down).

Make sure kids bring their Family guide home or tell them to go online to pursueGOD.org/kids to find this week's lesson.

ACTIVITY PAGE #2

Classroom Activities **2nd-5th**

Option #1

Memory Verse Game

- Have kids get into teams of 4.
- Give each team a set of memory verse cards (**page 5**).
- Have them put them face down on the floor.
- Have teams race to get the words in the correct order to say the memory verse. First team to do it correctly wins.

Supplies needed

- Memory verse template (pg. 5), precut, 1 set per team

Bonus Activity:

Play **Bible Hangman**.

Words or phrases: grace, Ephesians, Paul

Option #2

Don't Brag, Be Thankful Hand Craft

- Give each kid a piece of construction paper.
- Have kids trace their handprint onto the paper. Make sure their fingers are spread out so it's easier to cut.
- Then have kids cut out their handprint.
- Give each kid a handprint template (**page 6**).
- Have kids cut out each saying. Have them glue "I thank God for..." onto the palm and the others onto the fingers.
- As they work, explain why it's important to thank God for each of those things.
 - "Creating Me"-God made each one of us with special talents and abilities.
 - "Grace"-God's grace is a gift of kindness and forgiveness.
 - "Forgiveness"-Jesus died to pay for our sins.
 - "Loving Me"-God loves us so much that he sent Jesus to die for our sins.
 - "The Cross"- Where Jesus died to fix our sin problem.

Supplies needed

- Construction paper, 1/2 sheet per kid
- Pencils
- Scissors
- Handprint template (pg 6), 1 set per kid
- Glue

Bonus Activity:

Play **Find the Book**.

Have kids get into pairs. Give each pair a Bible. Have them race to find the books below. First to find has to say if it's in the OT or NT.

Books: Mark, Ruth, Hebrews

No Need to Brag | Get Rich #3 (Kids)

 www.pursuegod.org/no-need-to-brag-get-rich-3-kids/

How God saved us: by _____

Think about the best gift you ever gave to someone. Maybe you gave your best friend great big piece of candy. Or maybe you gave your parents a special art project you worked on all year long at school. I'm sure those gifts were pretty special. But they're not even close to the gift that Jesus gave us when he died on the cross for us! Because of his gift, we can be saved.

When God saved us: _____ we _____

The same thing is true for the gift that God is offering to us. Just because Jesus died on the cross for us and offered us the gift doesn't mean that everyone is saved. You have to accept the gift! The Bible teaches the only way to accept the gift is by believing in Jesus. We call that accepting Jesus into your heart and if you have never done it, you should do it today.

But there's one more thing.

What _____ to do: _____ about it

We are saved because of Grace when we believe and so we can't brag about it!

Questions:

1. *What was your favorite part of the video? What is one thing you learned from the video?*
2. *What's your biggest accomplishment so far? (playing an instrument, winning a trophy in sports or an award for an essay or art project) How hard did you have to work for it?*
3. *What does grace mean? How do we receive God's grace?*
4. *Why can't we brag about God's grace?*
5. *Read [Psalm 86:15](#). What does this verse say about God? How has God shown you his grace, love and faithfulness?*
6. *How will you apply this lesson to your life this week?*

Bonus Questions: Use these verses to have more conversations this week.

1. *Read [Romans 5:8](#). Why is it important to understand that Jesus died for us while we were still sinners?*
2. *Read [Romans 8:38-39](#). What does this passage say about God's love for you?*
3. *Read [Psalm 103:12](#). Does God continue to remind us of our sins? What does God do with our sins?*

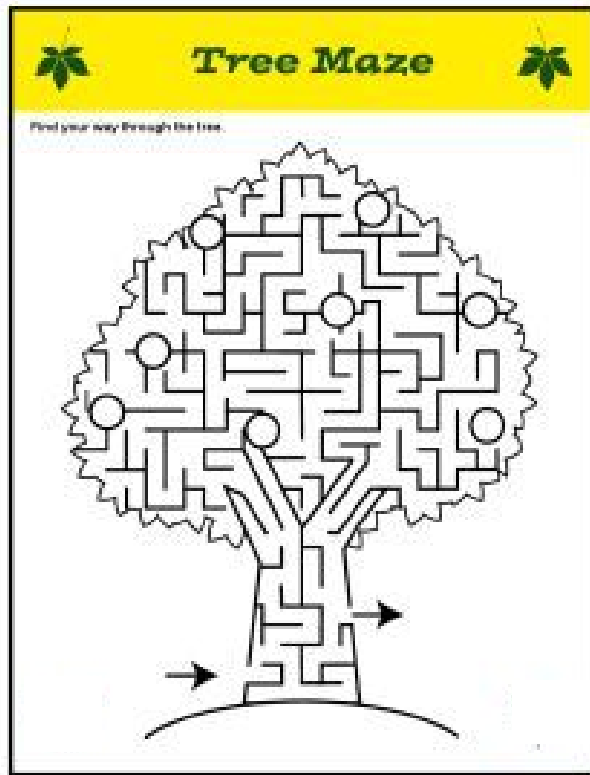
Answers: grace, after, believed, not, brag

ACTIVITY PAGE #1

2nd-5th Grade

Kids

PUZZLE #1



BIG IDEA

KEY QUESTION

MEMORY VERSE

"_____ is not a
reward for the _____ things we
have done, so none of us can
_____ about it."

Ephesians 2:_____

COLOR



Paul traveled to many parts of the Roman world to teach and help start churches. Then he would have to leave to go to a new town, but he would write letters to the churches to answer their questions and encourage them to keep following Jesus.

SALVATION

WE HAVE

IS

DONE

NOT

SO NONE

A REWARD

OF US CAN

FOR THE

BOAST

GOOD

ABOUT IT

THINGS

EPHESIANS

2:9

I THANK GOD FOR	CREATING ME	GRACE	FORGIVENESS	LOVING ME	THE CROSS
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I THANK GOD FOR	CREATING ME	GRACE	FORGIVENESS	LOVING ME	THE CROSS
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I THANK GOD FOR	CREATING ME	GRACE	FORGIVENESS	LOVING ME	THE CROSS
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I THANK GOD FOR	CREATING ME	GRACE	FORGIVENESS	LOVING ME	THE CROSS
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