

FAMILY GUIDE - 5 WEEKS



GRACE...

A WORD FILLED WITH MEANING

Grace is the unearned favor of Jesus. It is about receiving steadfast, unfailing love when it's undeserved. It's about the forgiveness and restoration of a joy-filled relationship, offered free of charge, through what Christ did on the cross for us. It is the coming together of two experiences—the experience of guilt, and the experience of love. It's only grace that brings those two things together. Children often understand the experience of grace more fully than adults. Lean into that when talking together during this series. They just might have something to teach us!

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GRACE CHANGES EVERYTHING

WEEK 1

Start Talking:

What was your favorite part about Easter?

Big Idea:

Understanding grace

Key Verses:

Ephesians 2:4-5

But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.

Matthew 9:10-13

While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

Start Sharing:

God had this idea.

 This very good idea.

About the world,

 about people,

 about love,

 about togetherness.

But... we ruined it.

We all have a problem.

I have a problem.

You have a problem.

A big problem.

A huge problem.

A problem that we can't fix on our own.

We want to fix it sometimes.

We try to fix it sometimes.

We sometimes feel sad that we can't fix it.

Do you know what it is? (*sin*)

We do wrong things all the time and don't obey God's teaching. In the Bible, the wrong things are called sin. That is our big problem.

We sometimes do wrong things even though we want to do the right things. The Bible talks about it like we are sick - not healthy.

1. When we are really sick (like a cold or the flu) where might we go? (*to the doctor*)
2. What does the doctor do? (*Gives us advice on how to get better. Maybe give us some medicine that will help us.*)

We just celebrated Easter and the death and rising again of Jesus.

1. All over the Bible, it talks about Jesus loving people that are different than Him. He loves people that don't love Him and wants to be with them so that He can show them what love really is. Can you think of someone who is kind of hard to love? How can you show them love?
2. What can you tell me about why Jesus died on the cross? (*He died to remove our sin from us. He died for all of us who do wrong things so that someday we can be with Him in heaven—because He is Holy and we are not. He died to forgive us.*)
3. Can you tell me why he rose again? (*Because he is God. Because he is greater than sin and death. Because he loves us and wants to be with us forever. So that He can give us his Spirit.*)
4. Read Matthew 9:10-13 again. Who did Jesus come for? The sick or the healthy? (*the sick*)

5. Who is sick? (*all of us*)
6. Who is the only one that can help us when we think of our sickness/sin? (*God/Jesus*)
7. How can you show God that you are sorry for your own sin? (*prayer, telling him you are sorry, trying to act differently next time.*)

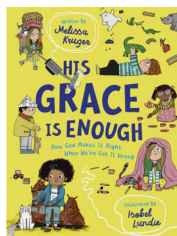
Start Doing:

During the course of this series, we will be doing a project based on the letters of grace. Each week will build on the last week until we have a clear picture of grace and the love that God shows us through it.

PICTURES OF GRACE:

- On a piece of paper, write a large letter G on the top
- Underneath the G, draw a large box. Inside that box, draw a picture of a doctor treating a sick patient. Use any of the Bible verses mentioned to help you with your drawing.
- Hang your G paper somewhere with enough room to leave it up and add on to it each week as a reminder of all you are learning about grace and the love and mercy that God has for each and every one of us.

Picture Book Resources:



His Grace Is Enough:

How God Makes It Right When We've Got It Wrong

By Melissa B. Kruger

*God's Very Good Idea:
A True Story About God's
Delightfully Different Family*
by Trillia Newbell

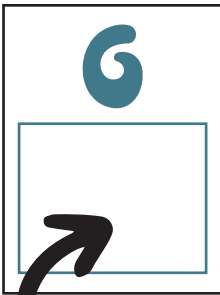


Start Praying:

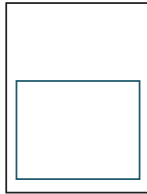
Dear God, thank You so much for loving me even when I do wrong things. Help me to understand how to feel sorry for my sin and accept Your grace. In Jesus' name, amen.

PICTURES OF GRACE

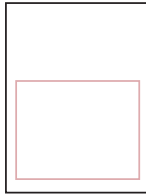
Week 1



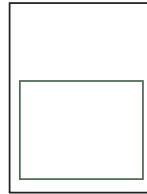
Week 2



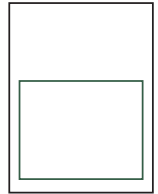
Week 3



Week 4



Week 5



**DRAW A PICTURE OF A DOCTOR
TREATING A SICK PATIENT**

THE SCANDAL OF GRACE

WEEK 2

Key Verses:

John 1:14-17 (GNT)

The Word became a human being and, full of grace and truth, lived among us. We saw his glory, the glory which he received as the Father's only Son. John spoke about him. He cried out, "This is the one I was talking about when I said, 'He comes after me, but he is greater than I am, because he existed before I was born.'" Out of the fullness of his grace he has blessed us all, giving us one blessing after another. God gave the Law through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

An Imagined Conversational Journey

After reading the scripture verses, go with us on an imagined conversational journey covering John 1:14-17

CHAPTER 1: A Divine Conversation

Long, long ago, back before you and me, back before the whole world, there was only God.

If God wanted to talk, there was only God to talk to.

And that was fine, because God is pure love. And because God is love, in our One God there is relationship.

- God the Father of the Son loves both God the Son and God the Holy Spirit
- God the Son of the Father loves both God the Father and God the Holy Spirit.
- God the Holy Spirit loves both God the Father and God Son.

So, God the Father said “I think I’ll make a world, all full of life and wonders!”

And God the Spirit answered “That’s a great idea! How will I do it?”

“Well,” God the Father said, “I’ll just speak the Word, and then it will be so.”

And God the Son answered, “Right! And I’ll be the Word that you speak.”

God the Father said, “Yes, you’ve been with me from before the beginning. And you are God.”

“Yes,” said God the Son, “speak me, and I’ll bring everything into being.”

So, God spoke the Word that had always been there with God, the Word who really was God.

Then everything in the world came into being because the Word was spoken—

- the stars and the galaxies
- the seas and the mountains
- the fish and the birds
- the you and the me.

God spoke the Word and all the life and all the wonders came to be.

CHAPTER 2: A Bit of a Problem

God’s world was full of life and full of wonders. But, because of the sin that came into the world, God’s perfect world became full of problems.

So, God the Spirit said “I think we need to do something to help our world.”

And God the Son said, “Yes. There are many problems because the people we created started sinning.”

God the Spirit said, “People aren’t treating each other with love, respect, and kindness.”

And God the Son said, “They forget to care for each other and

for our world.”

God the Father said, “Yes, they’ve even forgotten about us—they live as if there is no God.”

Then God the Son said, “That’s right. Because they are choosing something other than us, there is so much suffering.”

And God the Father said, “It’s sad. We made people to reflect our love and wisdom and goodness, but now they don’t look like us at all.”

So, God the Spirit said, “That’s why we need to help them. We need to heal them. We need to make them shine with our love, and wisdom, and goodness again.”

God the Father said, “I know how to do that.”

CHAPTER 3: The Solution

Then God the Son said, “I’ll go down and show them the way.”

And God the Father said, “Yes! You are the Word I spoke in the beginning. You can live, and speak, and be among them.”

God the Spirit said, “Yes. When they know you, they will know the way.”

And God the Father said, “When they know you, they will know the truth and real life.”

God the Son thought for a moment and then said, “Yes, I’ll go. I’ll be born as one of them. When I grow up they’ll know me—and knowing me they’ll know us.”

“Yes,” God the Father said. “And knowing God they’ll begin to look like us again.”

And so, as John says in his Gospel,

“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

John 1:14

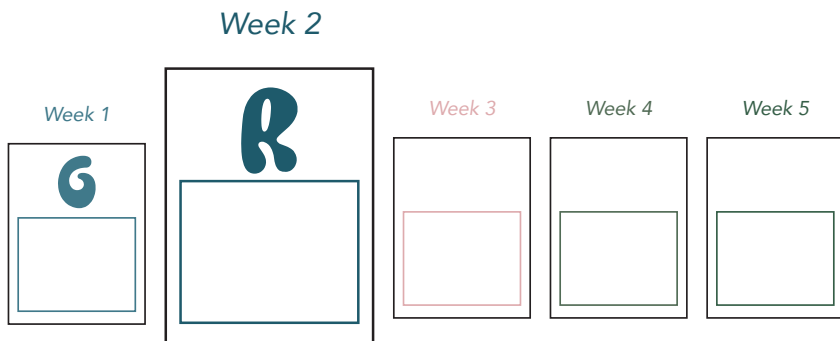
Start Wondering & Talking:

- 0 **WONDER**... what it was like when God spoke the Word, and the world came to be?
- 0 **WONDER**... how God felt when the world he created forgot to live as he planned?
- 0 **WONDER**... when you know Jesus better, how your life will look more like his?

Start Doing:

Continue your **PICTURES OF GRACE:**

- On a piece of paper, write a large letter R on the top.
- Underneath the R, draw a large box. Inside that box, draw a picture of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Use any of the Bible verses mentioned to help you with your drawing.
- Hang your R paper right by your other paper with enough room to leave it up and add on to it each week as a reminder of all you are learning about grace and the love and mercy that God has for each and every one of us.



Start Praying:

Dear God, help us always to remember how great You are. You are God in a human body, Jesus. You were always alive, even before You came to earth. Help us to be ok with that even though it is confusing. Help us to serve You the best way that we can. In Jesus' name, amen.

GRACE AND FORGIVENESS

WEEK 3

Big Idea:

Forgiveness is part of God's grace.

Key Verses:

Matthew 6:12

And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

Galatians 2:20-21 GNT

So that it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. This life that I live now, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave his life for me. I refuse to reject the grace of God. But if a person is put right with God through the Law, it means that Christ died for nothing!

Start Sharing:

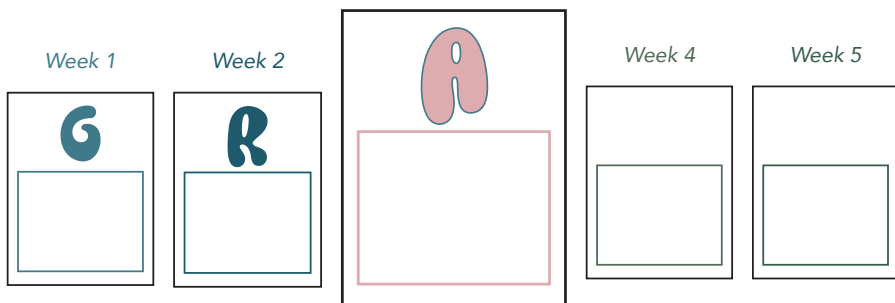
1. Think and share about something you did wrong this week that you got caught for.
2. Think and share about something someone else did wrong to you that you found out about.
3. What happened in those two times? Did it all work out in the end? Let's talk about the times that it did work out. How did you feel after? How do you think the other person felt?
4. Let's talk about the times that it didn't work out – or let's imagine if it didn't work out. How did you feel after? How do you think the other person felt? What do you wish would have happened?

Start Doing:

Continue your **PICTURES OF GRACE:**

- On a piece of paper, write a large letter A on the top.
- Underneath the A, draw a large box. Inside that box, draw a picture of forgiveness. It could be a hug, holding hands, playing together, doing something bad, then saying I'm sorry and I forgive you. It could be full of a color you feel when you feel forgiven or were able to forgive. It could be a huge heart with a picture of a cross in it. Use any of the Bible verses mentioned above to help you with your drawing.
- Hang your A paper right by your other papers with enough room to leave it up and add on to it each week as a reminder of all you are learning about grace and the love and mercy that God has for each and every one of us.

Week 3



Start Praying:

Dear God, thank You for always forgiving me when I ask for it and truly feel sorry for what I have done. Help me to forgive people even if they aren't sorry or I don't think they deserve it. Help me to trust You. In Jesus' name, amen.

UNSETTLING GRACE

WEEK 4

Big Idea:

God answers prayer in the way that is best for us.

Key Verses:

2 Corinthians 12:7-10

... Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Start Sharing:

When you ask your mom or dad if you can have a cookie, I'm sure they don't always give you the same answer. Sometimes the answer may be, "yes" and sometimes it may be "no." If you ask for a cookie and it is almost time to eat dinner, the answer might be, "not right now, it will spoil your dinner."

"Yes" might not always be the answer that is best for you.

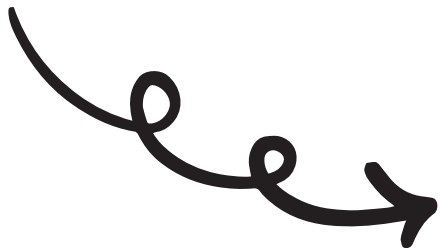
Did you know that same thing is true when we pray to God? Sometimes we ask God for something and He answers, "Yes" right away. Other times He may say, "No." There are also times when we ask God for something, and He says, "Not right now." Just like a parent, the

reason God doesn't always say, "yes" is that He wants what is best for His children -- and what we are asking for may not be what is best for us.

In our Bible verses, 2 Corinthians 12:7-10, the apostle Paul is talking. He became one of God's most faithful servants and even he sometimes got a "no" in answer to his prayers. This passage is from a letter he wrote to his friends in the church at Corinth. Paul told them that he had a physical problem—which he described as a "thorn in his flesh."

We don't know exactly what it was because he didn't say, but it was something that Paul wanted God to take away. Paul said that he begged God, not once, not twice, but three times to take away this "thorn in the flesh," but God said, "No, my grace is all you need." God wanted to teach Paul, and sometimes He wants to teach us as well by saying no to things we think we want.

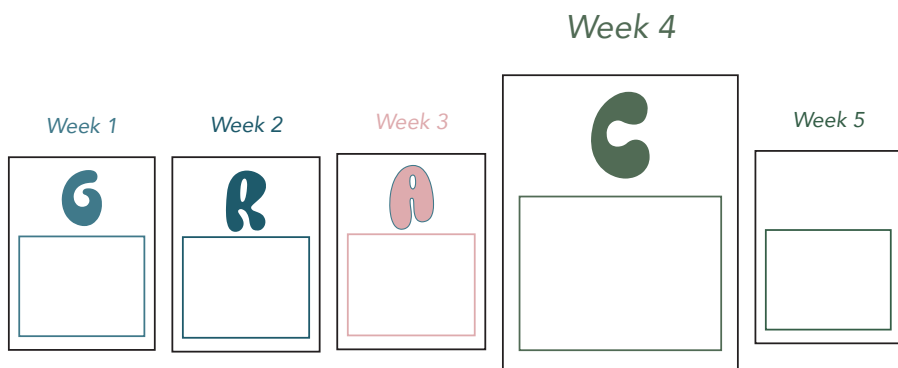
1. What did Paul say was hurting him?
(A thorn in his flesh)
2. It probably wasn't an actual thorn. What could that "thorn" have been?
(a hurt foot, a hurt back, etc.)
3. Did God say "yes, I will heal it"? What did He say?
(My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness)
4. What does God want us to do when we have a weakness?
(pray)
5. What does God want us to do when we don't get what we pray for?
(pray more, and trust God)



Start Doing:

Continue your **PICTURES OF GRACE:**

- On a piece of paper, write a large letter C on the top.
- Underneath the C, draw a large box. Inside that box, draw a picture of forgiveness. It could be a hug, holding hands, playing together, doing something bad, then saying I'm sorry and I forgive you. It could be full of a color you feel when you feel forgiven or were able to forgive. It could be a huge heart with a picture of a cross in it. Use any of the Bible verses mentioned above to help you with your drawing.
- Hang your C paper right by your other papers with enough room to leave it up and add on to it each week as a reminder of all you are learning about grace and the love and mercy that God has for each and every one of us.



Start Praying:

Dear God, thank You for being strong and powerful. On my own, I am weak but with You I can do all things! Help me to trust in You always and recognize that I need You for everything. Thank You for Your love. I love you, God! In Jesus' name, amen.



THE FAMILY TREE

WEEK 5

Big Idea:

God uses families to show his grace.

Key Verses:

Matthew 1:1-6

The Genealogy of Jesus the Messiah

This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham: Abraham was the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, Judah the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar, Perez the father of Hezron, Hezron the father of Ram, Ram the father of Amminadab, Amminadab the father of Nahshon, Nahshon the father of Salmon, Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab, Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth, Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of King David. David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been Uriah's wife ...

Start Sharing through Drawing:

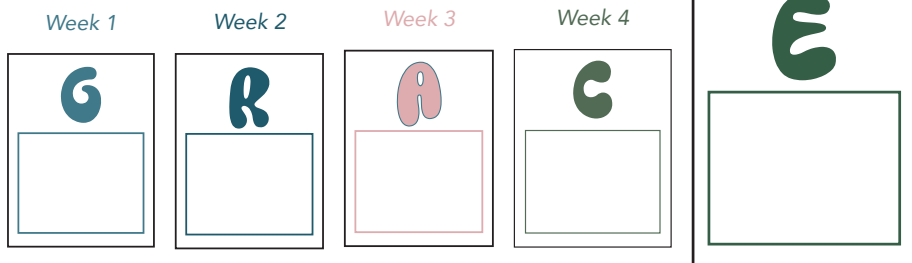
1. Draw a large tree with many branches. Write down the names of everyone in your family as far as you can remember and where they belong on the tree (you might need to make a list before you start drawing).
2. Talk about who everyone is and their importance to your family.
3. Talk about what those people are/were like and if they believe/believed in God.
4. Talk about how people treat each other and how God wants us to act.
5. Remind everyone of the grace that God has given all of us and the forgiveness that He wants us to extend to every member of our family.

Start Doing:

Finish your **PICTURES OF GRACE:**

- On a piece of paper, write a large letter E on the top.
- Underneath the E, draw a large box. Inside that box, draw a picture of a tree and write the words family and love. Use any of the Bible verses mentioned above to help you with your drawing.
- Hang your E paper right by your other papers. If this works as a reminder to your family of God's great gift of grace, leave it up as long as you wish!

Week 5



Start Praying:

Dear God, thank You for my family and help me to love others enough to want to bring them into my Christian family as well. Thank You for Your grace and forgiveness in all things. Help me to serve You by forgiving others and giving them grace as well. In Jesus' name, amen.





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