



LOW-ENERGY GAME

Guessing Game

[10 min]

Play a Game Like I Spy

Say: **Let's play a guessing game! I'll look around and then give you a clue about something in our room. Then you'll take turns guessing what it is. I'm going to try to choose something that will be really hard for you to guess.**

- Choose an object and give a clue. Your clue could be a color, a texture, or what you do with the object. For example, "I see something soft" could be a clue for a stuffed animal, or "I see something red" could be a clue for a poster on your wall. Be careful not to look directly at the object and give it away.
- Have kids try to guess the object. When a child guesses correctly, he or she gets to choose the next object and give a clue. Challenge kids to choose things that will be difficult to guess.
- Continue playing, making sure to give each child an opportunity to choose an object and give a clue.

Talk About It

Say: **We didn't always guess the right objects right away. But our friends showed grace and let us keep guessing, even when we were wrong. Just like our friends showed grace in our game, God shows grace to us every day. We all make mistakes sometimes. But our friends and family members show us grace and keep on loving us.**

Tell about someone in *your* life who gives you grace when you mess up.

Ask: • **Who's someone who gives *you* grace when you mess up?** Kids might mention a parent or a teacher.

Say: **When people show grace, they show us what God is like. God shows grace. God's grace gives us more chances to make good choices.**



TALK-ABOUT VIDEO

Sweet-a-Stick

[10 min]

Supplies

- “Sweet-a-Stick” teaching video

Discuss and Watch “Sweet-a-Stick”

Ask: • **Think of a cool invention you wish existed. What would it be?**

Say: **Today we’re learning that God shows grace, and he showed grace by making bitter water sweet when the Israelites complained. Let’s watch a video that shows what might’ve happened if they’d used that idea to make up a cool invention.**

Watch “Sweet-a-Stick.”

Ask: • **Why do you or don’t you think this really happened in the Bible?**

• **If a Sweet-a-Stick was real, would you buy one? Why or why not?**

Say: **A Sweet-a-Stick would be a fun invention, but it’s not real. The stick Moses used was just a regular stick, not a special invention. It made the water sweet by God’s power because God shows grace and wanted to give his people something that would help them.**



DEEPER BIBLE What Difference Does Grace Make?

[15 min]

Supplies

- Bibles
- individually wrapped candy or other prizes (1 per child)
- paper
- pens
- whiteboard or poster board
- dry-erase marker or marker

Do the Impossible

Hold up some candy. Say: **I have some challenges for you. If you can do them all successfully, you'll get a piece of candy!**

Challenge kids to do the following. Some kids may give up after failing the first challenge; other kids may keep attempting the challenges.

- Lick your elbow.
- Touch the ceiling while keeping your feet on the floor.
- Correctly name the elementary school I went to.
- Jump and keep yourself suspended in midair for 10 whole seconds.
- Divide 50,478 by 348 in your head. (In case you need the answer, it's 145.0517.)

Say: **Too bad no one completed the challenges...but I'm going to give you all candy anyway!** Give each child a piece of candy.

Ask: • **What did you think of these challenges?**

• **Was there a point when you wanted to stop trying? Explain.**

• **Do you think you earned the candy? Why or why not?**

Say: **Most of these challenges were impossible. There was no way for you to earn the candy. But I decided to give it to you anyway, just because I like you!**

That's what grace is. God knows it's impossible for us to earn our way into heaven. He knows we can't ever be good enough because we'd have to be perfect! So he showed grace by sending Jesus to make a way for us to get to heaven—without being perfect.

So...why does that matter? What difference does grace make? Let's dig in to that.

Dig Deeper

Say: **Let's see what the Bible says and try to tell what grace really is.**

Have kids sit in leader-led small groups (up to eight groups). Give each group a Bible, paper, and pens. Assign one of the following passages to each group, and have kids discuss what they read about grace. Have the adult or teen helpers leading groups write what the groups decide, and encourage them to lead kids in talking about why it matters. It's okay if you don't cover all these verses.

- Romans 3:24
- Romans 5:20-21
- Romans 6:15-18
- Romans 11:6
- 2 Corinthians 12:9
- Ephesians 1:7
- Ephesians 2:8-9
- Hebrews 4:16

Allow several minutes for groups to read their verses and talk about what grace is. Then have kids come back together and share what they talked about. Challenge kids to come up with one main definition of *grace* based on all the verses the kids read.

Ask: • **What do our definition and your verse show you about why grace matters?**

• **Imagine life without God's grace. What would it be like?**

Say: **We might think we don't need *that* much grace because we're pretty good people. But our sin—no matter how big or small we think it is—keeps us from God's perfect holiness. God's grace forgives *everything* and gives us a chance to live in heaven forever. God shows grace to us in a big way.**

Say: **Think back on our definitions of *grace*.** Pause. Then ask:

• **How can you show grace to someone this week?** Share your own example; then let kids share their examples in pairs.

Say: **When we realize how big God's grace is, it makes it easier to show grace to people in our lives, too. God shows grace, so we show grace.**



LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

Sips and Prayers

[5 min]

Supplies

- sweet drink (enough for each child to have a few sips)
- 3-ounce cups (1 per child)

Drink a Sweet Drink

Say: **God did something amazing in the Bible story we read today. God showed grace when he helped his friends. They were very grumpy and didn't really deserve help, but God gave them what they needed anyway. He made some water safe to drink.**

Give each child a small cup with only a sip of the sweet drink, and tell kids not to drink it yet.

Share about something sweet God does for you. For example, you might share how God brings you peace when you read the Bible. You might also share how God makes you feel joy when you sing to him.

Ask: • **What's something sweet God does for you?** Help children think of ideas, if needed. They might share how they feel safe when they remember that God's with them at night or that God gave them family whom they love.

Say: **God gives us so much, and every time God gives us something, he's showing us grace. God loves us and wants to take care of us, even when we don't deserve it. God showed grace to his friends in the Bible when he gave them something to drink, and he shows grace to us. Let's thank God for taking care of us and giving us grace.**

Lead children to say "Thank you, God" and then drink a sip from their cups.

Continue Sipping and Praying

Say: **God's grace never runs out.** Have adult and teen helpers add more of the sweet drink to each child's cup. **We can make bad choices, but God will love us and forgive us. Let's thank God for forgiving us.**

Lead children to say "Thank you, God" and then drink a sip from their cups.

Say: **Because of God's unending grace and love, we can show grace and love to others, too. Let's ask God to help us share God's grace with others by being kind to all those around us.**

Lead children to say "Help me show grace, God" and then drink a sip from their cups.

Say: **This week, remember that God has such a big love for you, and he can help you show grace and love to others, too.** Invite kids to come back to church next week.



ACTIVITY PAGES WITH A POINT

Sour to Good

[10 min]

Supplies

- “God Makes Bitter Water Good” Coloring Page
- pencils
- crayons
- toothpicks
- transparent tape

Older Kids: Do an Activity Page

Say: **When the Israelites complained about the water being bitter, God showed grace and made it good. Let’s see if you can change these yucky words into good words.**

Distribute the activity pages and pencils. Kids will change the words one letter at a time until they become the new words. Be sure kids know they can rearrange the letters, too!

Ask: • **What was your strategy to change the words?**

• **Were any words too hard to change? Talk about that.**

• **Do you think it could ever be too hard for God to show grace? Why or why**

not?

Say: **You changed the words a little at a time, but God changed the water straight from bitter to good when Moses put the stick in the water. God shows grace and gives us things we don’t deserve. And even when it’s really hard—even when we’ve been really bad—God is always willing to show us grace.**

Answers: SOUR/RODS/DOGS/GOOD; GROSS/SORTS/ROAST/TOAST/TASTY;
STICK/STACK/SKATE/TEARS/WATER

Younger Kids: Color a Coloring Page

Distribute the coloring pages and crayons. Say: **The water was yucky! But God showed Moses a stick to throw in the water to make it taste good. Color this picture, and then tape a stick in the water!**

Allow time for kids to color. When they’re done, kids can tape a toothpick onto the water.

When kids finish coloring, three-hole-punch their pages and put them into binders, if desired.