Unit 3: Our Life Together

Lessons 14-15: Remembrance & Accepting Grace

Welcome to Confirmation Class

Confirm Series: Lessons 14-15

As we wait to begin, take a moment to review our goals and expectations for class:

Lesson Goals

As a result of this lesson, I will be able to…

- Explore the elements and significance of the United Methodist practices of accepting grace through the sacraments.

Class Expectations

- WORK HARD
- BE KIND

For Fun!

Be ready to share one response:

- What is your favorite Thanksgiving dish/food?
- What are your plans for Thanksgiving break? Do you travel or stay home?
- Who cooks your Thanksgiving meal? Do you see family?

Who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace. This grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began.

2 Timothy 1:9

Tentative Agenda

Welcome/Opening Prayer

Lesson 14: Remembrance

Break/Snack

Lesson 15: Accepting Grace

Wrap Up/Closing

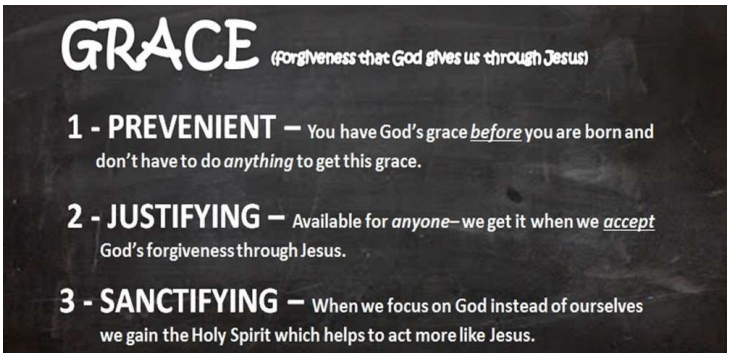
Opening Prayer

Dear God, Thank you for bringing us together today as we explore what grace means. Help us to understand the three. Show us how the sacraments brings us closer to you, filling us with joy and purpose. Guide our hearts and minds as we listen, learn, and seek to honor you in all we do. In Jesus' name, we pray, Amen.


GRACE OF GOD
WHAT IS IT?
Got
Questions.org

3 Types of Grace

Prevenient	Justifying	Sanctifying
• Grace before us • Grace that comes before we ask for it • Front porch grace • Baptism confirms all three types of grace, but mainly prevenient	• Salvation • Make right • Restored/justified • Eternal life • Unconditional love	• Be made holy • Growth in faith • Not just committing to Jesus, but to the holy life



WHAT IS A SACRAMENT?

Talk to your neighbor.
What do you think sacrament means?

WHAT IS A SACRAMENT?



The sacraments are **sacred rituals in many religious traditions** that symbolize and convey divine grace.

They are ceremonies or acts with **profound spiritual significance** and are considered channels of the presence and action of the divine in the lives of believers.

The sacraments often include elements such as water, bread, wine, and the laying on of hands, and are designed to strengthen faith, forgive sins, unite people with God and the religious community, and celebrate important moments in religious life, such as baptism, communion

WHAT IS A SACRAMENT?

A sacrament is an outward and visible sign of the inward working of grace.

In the UMC, we practice *two* sacraments that were modeled in the life of Jesus.

Sacraments were established by Jesus, ordained by Christ, and are mysterious.

Does anyone know which these are?

Baptism Welcomes Us to the Church

Make a list of people and things at Baptism:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Draw a picture of Baptism:

Write the missing words that the pastor says at Baptism:

I baptize you
in the name of the _____
and of the _____
and of the _____ _____.

Baptism is important because _____
_____

HOLY COMMUNION



ITEMS USED DURING HOLY COMMUNION	KEY WORDS USED DURING HOLY COMMUNION
HOLY COMMUNION IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE...	QUESTIONS I STILL HAVE ABOUT HOLY COMMUNION



13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. **14** John would have prevented him, saying,
"I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" **15** But Jesus answered him,
"Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill
all righteousness." Then he consented. **16** And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly
the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. **17** And a voice
from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

Matthew 3:13-17

Baptism

In this passage, we see Jesus coming to John the Baptist to be baptized in the Jordan River. Even though Jesus was without sin, He chose to be baptized as an example of obedience to God and to fulfill all righteousness (verse 15). John's initial hesitation, believing that he should be baptized by Jesus rather than the other way around, highlights Jesus' humility and willingness to submit to God's plan. As Jesus emerges from the water, the Holy Spirit descends upon Him like a dove, and God's voice from heaven declares, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased" (verse 17). This moment is a powerful affirmation of Jesus' identity as the Son of God and marks the beginning of His public ministry.

Baptism represents both an act of obedience to God and a sign of a new beginning. For Jesus, it was a moment of affirmation, but for us, it's a symbol of being cleansed from sin and entering into the family of God. When we are baptized, we follow Jesus' example, showing our commitment to God and our willingness to live in the Spirit, just as Jesus did.

Discussion Questions:

1.Why do you think Jesus, who was sinless, chose to be baptized? What does this teach us about obedience and the importance of following God's plan?

2.Baptism is a symbol of a new beginning. How does your faith feel like a fresh start, and what does baptism mean to you personally?



19 Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying,
"This is my body, which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me."
20 And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying,
"This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood."

Luke 22:19-20

Communion

In these verses, we see Jesus instituting the sacrament of Holy Communion during the Last Supper with His disciples. He takes the bread, gives thanks, and breaks it, saying, "This is my body, given for you; do this in remembrance of me" (verse 19). Then, after the meal, He takes the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you" (verse 20). Through these actions, Jesus establishes a new way for His followers to remember Him, not only as the one who provided for them physically during their time together but also as the one who would give His life for their spiritual salvation.

Holy Communion serves as a reminder of Jesus' sacrifice—His body broken for us and His blood shed for the forgiveness of sins. It's a time to reflect on the depth of God's love and the new relationship we have with Him through Jesus' death and resurrection. Each time we take part in Communion, we are invited to remember, renew, and recommit ourselves to Christ's teachings and sacrifice.

Discussion Questions:

1.What does the phrase "do this in remembrance of me" mean to you? How can we make Communion more meaningful in our own lives beyond just a tradition?

2.Jesus says the cup is the "new covenant in my blood." What do you think the "new covenant" means, and how does it change the way we view our relationship with God?

Religion	Baptism Practice	Theological Significance	Age of Baptism	Mode of Baptism
Methodist	Baptism is a sacrament for initiation into the Christian faith. It is a visible sign of God's prevenient grace.	Symbolizes cleansing from sin and initiation into the body of Christ. It is an act of grace, not dependent on the believer's own merit.	Infant or adult, often as infants for covenant.	Typically sprinkling or pouring of water, but full immersion can be an option, too.
Catholic	Baptism removes original sin and welcomes the person into the Church.	Essential for salvation; cleanses from original sin, makes the person part of the Church.	Infants are baptized to ensure salvation.	Typically sprinkling or pouring of water; immersion allowed in some regions.
Jewish	Not a Christian sacrament, but the practice of ritual washing (Mikvah) for purification.	Mikvah symbolizes spiritual purity, often before major life events (e.g., conversion, marriage).	Performed at various stages of life depending on the ritual.	Full immersion in water.
Baptist	Believer's baptism, only for those who consciously choose to be baptized.	Baptism symbolizes the believer's faith in Christ and identification with His death, burial, and resurrection.	Only for those who profess faith in Christ (usually teens/adults).	Full immersion.
Lutheran	Baptism cleanses from sin and brings one into God's covenant.	Regarded as a means of grace, important for salvation. It is an act of God's work, not human effort.	Infants and adults, often infants to initiate them into God's family.	Sprinkling, pouring, or immersion.
Eastern Orthodox	Baptism is the sacrament of initiation, followed by Chrismation (anointing) and Eucharist.	Necessary for salvation; it removes original sin and unites the person with Christ.	Infants are typically baptized.	Triple immersion (three times in water).
Pentecostal	Baptism signifies repentance and faith in Christ.	While a symbol of new life in Christ, Pentecostals emphasize the importance of the Holy Spirit's infilling.	Primarily for those who have made a personal faith decision (usually teens or adults).	Full immersion.

Religion	Communion Practice	Theological Significance	Frequency of Communion	Elements Used	Mode of Communion
Methodist	Communion is an open table for all believers, symbolizing unity with Christ. It is a visible sign of God's justifying grace.	A means of grace where believers receive spiritual nourishment and remember Christ's sacrifice.	Typically once a month, sometimes weekly.	Bread and grape juice (symbolic of Christ's body and blood).	Open table, served by clergy or lay leaders, often in a formal setting.
Catholic	Communion (Eucharist) is a sacrament, believed to be the actual body and blood of Christ (transubstantiation).	Central to worship and seen as a means of grace, offering spiritual nourishment and unity with Christ.	Typically weekly (Sundays) or more often (daily).	Bread (host) and wine (transformed into the body and blood).	Served by priests; faithful receive by either intinction (dipping) or drinking directly from the cup.
Jewish	Not a Christian sacrament, but the practice of **Kiddush** and **Challah** is used to bless the Sabbath.	Represents remembrance and sanctification of the Sabbath and Jewish faith.	Weekly, during Sabbath meals.	Wine (or grape juice) and bread (challah).	Recited blessing over wine and bread, consumed as part of the meal.
Baptist	Communion is a symbolic act of remembering Christ's death, not a sacrament.	Emphasizes remembrance and reflection on Christ's sacrifice rather than the actual presence of Christ in the elements.	Usually once a month or quarterly.	Bread and grape juice (symbolic of Christ's body and blood).	Served by deacons or pastors, in a formal setting, often with individual cups.
Lutheran	Communion is the means of receiving grace; Christ is truly present in the bread and wine (consubstantiation).	Viewed as a mystery of faith, Christ is present in, with, and under the bread and wine.	Typically weekly (Sundays) or more often in some congregations.	Bread and wine (Christ's body and blood).	Served by pastor or elder; often in a formal service.
Eastern Orthodox	Communion (Eucharist) is a sacrament, with bread and wine becoming the actual body and blood of Christ.	Central to worship, offering spiritual nourishment and uniting believers with Christ.	Typically weekly (Sundays) and at major feast days.	Bread (leavened) and wine (the body and blood of Christ).	Served by priests; often receive both body and blood by intinction.
Pentecostal	Communion is a symbolic act, focusing on remembering Christ's sacrifice and examining one's relationship with God.	A memorial and a proclamation of Christ's death, with an emphasis on self-examination.	Typically once a month or during special services.	Bread and grape juice (symbolic of Christ's body and blood).	Served by clergy or leaders, often in a formal or informal setting.

Wrap-Up

Confirm Series: Lessons 14-15

As we wrap up class, let's go over a few things together:

Objective

The objective of class today was...

- Explore the elements and significance of the United Methodist practices of accepting grace through the sacraments.

Application

Today's lesson is important to me because...

Closing Prayer

One confirmand will lead us in a closing prayer.

Upcoming Dates

- November 13
  - World Kindness Day
  - Feed My Starving Children
  - Culver's Dining for Dollars
- November 15
  - SNL: Friendsgiving at Buffalo Grove (5-7p)
- November 22
  - Confirmation Mentor Meet Up
  - Interfaith Service (3-5p)
- November 29
  - Hanging of the Greens—come help decorate the church for Advent
  - Confirmation Class
- December 6
  - ONE SERVICE at BG (10a)
  - Potluck lunch afterwards