

Parenting with PURPOSE



Unit 4.1: What is Grace?

We deserve punishment for our sin, but instead, God offers us salvation through Jesus Christ. When we accept Jesus as our Savior, we are saved from punishment, we are justified and we have peace with God.

Memory Verse: Romans 8:1a

Lesson Objectives:

- WE DESERVE GOD'S WRATH. Recognize that we were enemies of God because of our sin and that we deserve punishment and wrath.
- GOD GIVES GRACE THROUGH JESUS CHRIST. Believe that once we trust Christ as Savior, we are saved from God's wrath and become His friends instead of His enemies.
- WE ARE JUSTIFIED WHEN WE TRUST JESUS AS SAVIOR. Accept that we can do absolutely nothing to earn or deserve our salvation; we only need faith in what Christ has done for us.
- WE HAVE PEACE WITH GOD. Understand that we don't have to fear punishment for our sin and we can look forward to heaven forever.

Talk about it:

- Who is a sinner? What is the punishment for sin?
- Who is the only one who is perfect and without sin?
- How much does grace matter?



Encouragement for you:

God loves you more than you can imagine. So much so that when we were dead in our sin, He made you alive in Christ (Ephesians 2:4-5). He has offered to give us so much more than we deserve. His rich gift of grace is immeasurable and beyond what we can comprehend. You are loved by the All-Mighty, All-Powerful, Loving Creator and God. As you go through tough situations this week, think about God's grace and all that He has done for you.

T&T Announcements

Family Activity: Sin vs. Grace

What You'll Need:

White copy paper, clear page protectors, dry erase markers, old towels, permanent marker

PREP: Before you start, place white paper inside clear page protectors. Prepare one sheet for each child. Prepare cleaning cloths for them by tearing old towels into strips. Prepare one strip for each person. On each strip, write the word *grace* with a permanent marker.

STEP 1: Give each child a prepared page protector. Have them use dry erase markers to draw a bubble outline of a person on their page protector. Ask: "What are some common sins that a T&T kid might do?" (Possible answers might include lying, stealing, cheating, being unkind to others, hitting, disobeying parents.) Have them write several sins on their drawings.

STEP 2: Discuss possible punishments that they might get for these sins (e.g., being grounded, having to do extra chores, losing electronic privileges, school detention). Ask: "If a child chose to sin in one of these ways, why would he or she deserve punishment?" (Because sin has consequences; because people may have been hurt; because something should be done to make things right and pay back what was taken.)

STEP 3: Share this key concept: All of us are like these drawings. We are all sinners who deserve punishment.

STEP 4: Give each child a cleaning cloth and point out the word *grace* written on each cloth. Tell them to wipe the sins from their drawings. Tell them that in today's lesson, they will learn how God offers forgiveness for sin because of His grace.

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Unit 4.2: Grace and Law

Nobody can keep all of God's laws, so God sent Jesus Christ, who did keep all the laws, to take our punishment for breaking the law. Now by grace we can be saved by believing that Christ died for you.

Memory Verse: Galatians 3:11

Lesson Objectives:

- **WE ARE SINNERS.** Understand that if we break one of God's laws, it's as bad as breaking all of His laws. No one can keep all God's laws perfectly.
- **JESUS IS PERFECT.** Believe that Jesus is the only one who kept the law perfectly and took our punishment for sin.
- **WE CAN BE JUSTIFIED THROUGH CHRIST.** Review the definition of justification and grace and acknowledge that they could only become righteous by grace through faith in Jesus Christ.
- **THE HOLY SPIRIT HELPS US.** Learn that God's grace stays with them after they trust Christ to help them resist sin and become more like His Son, Jesus.

Talk about it:

- What does it mean when someone refers to God's laws?
- Who can keep all of God's laws perfectly?
- What would it feel like if your only hope was to follow all the rules perfectly?



Encouragement for you:

There is absolutely nothing you can do by your own merit or effort to save yourself. It is only by God's grace that we are saved. At the moment you are saved God sees Christ's righteousness instead of your sin when He looks at you. Because of God's grace, Galatians 3:11 tells us that the righteous live by faith. When we live by faith and dependence on the Holy Spirit, others will see our belief and obedience. Can your friends and family see you living out your faith?

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Family Activity: Guilty of All

What You'll Need:

A Bible bookmarked to James 2:10, dominoes, 2 sturdy tables

PREP: Set up four paths of dominoes (include seven to 10 dominoes in each path), two paths per table. Make sure that the dominoes are set up in such a way that they will fall if the first domino is knocked down.

STEP 1: Ask a volunteer to see if he (or she) can knock the first domino toward the others without knocking down any of the other dominoes in the pattern. Tell him he cannot move the first domino from its spot; he can only knock it toward the other dominoes.

STEP 2: Ask two other volunteers to come forward and give them the same challenge with two of the other paths of dominoes.

STEP 3: Ask: "Why does it seem impossible to complete the task?" (The dominoes are set up in such a way that if you knock over one, it will cause the others to fall as well.)

STEP 4: Ask someone to read James 2:10 aloud from your Bible. Explain to the group that the dominoes represent how God views sin. If we sin or break only one law one time (knock the first domino of the last path into the other dominoes in the path), it is as if we are guilty of breaking all of God's laws. Tell them that in this week's lesson they will learn how God's grace offers us salvation from the punishment for breaking God's laws and allows us to become more like Christ.

STEP 5: Share these key concepts:

- A. In the Old Testament, there were a lot of laws that God gave to His people, the Israelites. In order to be righteous in God's eyes, they had to try to keep all of the laws, all of the time.
- B. The problem was that it was impossible to ALWAYS keep ALL of the laws.
- C. These laws showed that they could never be righteous on their own by keeping the law. That is why God gave us grace through Jesus Christ.

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Unit 4.3: Grace to be Humble

When we recognize God's rightful authority and desire to become more like Christ, we will humbly submit to authority and view others as more important than ourselves.

Memory Verse: James 4:6

Lesson Objectives:

- WE MUST SUBMIT TO GOD. Understand that submission is considering someone else as more important than them.
- GOD GIVES GRACE TO BE HUMBLE. Realize that in order to be humble, they must first submit to God.
- WE MUST DRAW NEAR TO GOD. Determine to allow the Holy Spirit to help them draw closer to God.
- WE DISPLAY HUMILITY THROUGH GRACE. Recognize their need to humbly submit to those in authority and to consider others as better than them.

Talk about it:

- How does God see us after we accept Christ as our Savior?
- Who helps us to resist sinning and become more like Christ?
- Who did God plan to be in charge of us?
- How should we show our thanks to God for all He has done for us?



Encouragement for you:

Jesus is our ultimate example of what it means to be humble because He chose to live on earth and die on the cross for our sins. When you are humble and submit to God's authority you are choosing to obey what He has commanded and become who He created you to be. In order to be truly humble, your life should be lived for God alone and not to be noticed by others. Who have you been living for recently?

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Family Activity: Forgiveness

What You'll Need:

Nothing

STEP 1: Read one or both of the following short stories to the kids.

STORY ONE: Andrew came home from school and put his backpack on his bed. He immediately noticed that his new Lego® set he had put together was gone. "Sam!" he yelled as he stormed out of his room and down the hall to find his little brother. He was ready to start yelling at his brother for getting into his stuff. Mom stepped in to settle the fight. She made Sam return the Lego® set, which was now broken apart. "I'm sorry, Andrew!" Sam replied, trying to give Andrew a hug. "I know I have to forgive you," replied Andrew with a scowl, "but you'd better NEVER come into my room or touch my stuff again!"

STORY TWO: At dance class, Emma was trying her best to learn the new routine, but she was struggling to get the steps in the correct order. "Look at Emma!" said Ava. She pointed at Emma and began to laugh. All of the other girls laughed too. Emma tried to ignore them, but she felt miserable for the rest of the class. The next morning at school, Ava sat down in her seat, right in front of Emma. Ava smiled at Emma and said hello, but Emma glared at her and turned away. Ava is the meanest person I know and I will NEVER talk to her again, Emma thought to herself.

STEP 2: Ask the following questions:

- Does it seem like (character's name) was willing to forgive? Why or why not?
- Why do you think it's important to forgive people?

STEP 3: Share these key concepts:

- Even after we trust Jesus as Savior, we will still sin. And since we are sinners, we will need forgiveness. We will also have to forgive others.
- Forgiveness is not always easy, but God expects us to forgive those who have hurt us.
- When we realize that God through grace has forgiven our past, present and future sins, it helps us understand how important it is to forgive others.

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Unit 4.4: Grace to Forgive

God forgives all our sins when we trust Jesus as our Savior. Remembering how we were forgiven can help us to forgive others.

Memory Verse: Ephesians 4:32

Lesson Objectives:

- Study the life of Old Testament Joseph as a model of forgiveness.
- THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT FORGIVENESS. Define biblical forgiveness.
- GOD FORGAVE US. Believe that the Holy Spirit can change our hearts and help us to forgive as we read the Bible and pray.
- GOD GIVES US GRACE TO FORGIVE. Thank God for His amazing forgiveness of us and desire to show that same forgiveness to others.

Talk about it:

- What is biblical forgiveness?
- When we trust Christ as our Savior, which of our sins are forgiven?
- Who do you know that will help you become more like Christ and learn to forgive others?



Encouragement for you:

God forgives all our sins (past, present and future) when we trust that Jesus Christ died for us on the cross and rose again. God forgives us even though we don't deserve it. Ephesians 4:32 tell us that we should forgive others the way that God, in Christ, forgives us. It can be really tough to do, but how are you modeling forgiveness in your home with your family?

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Family Activity: Picture the Scene

What You'll Need:

Bible, 3x5 index cards, pens or pencils, construction paper, markers Play Doh®

PREP: Write the following groups of references on 3x5 cards, one group of references per card: Genesis 37:3-4, 9-11, 13-14, 23-24, 28; Genesis 41:46-49, 53-57; Genesis 42:3-4 and Genesis 45:1-15

STEP 1: Ask your kids to think about something they might have done wrong today or this week. Share these key concepts:

- When we trust Jesus as Savior, He forgives all of our sins — the ones from our past and our present.
- But He doesn't stop there; He also forgives ALL of our future sin, the sins that we haven't even done yet. That is grace!
- Because God forgives us completely, we should forgive others (Colossians 3:13).

STEP 2: Hand out a 3 x 5 card, Bible, construction paper, Play Doh and markers. Instruct your kids to study the verses listed on their card and choose one scene to illustrate, either by drawing the images or recreating them with Play Doh. Encourage each person in the groups to take part in the activity. If you have time, repeat with a different verse.

STEP 3: Present the illustrations. Share this summary:

- Joseph's brothers hated him so much that they sold him into slavery and lied to their father!
- Joseph was taken to Egypt. He was a slave and he even ended up in prison for something he didn't do. But God was with Joseph. After many years, Joseph was made second in power in the whole country!
- Joseph was in charge of storing up food in Egypt and then selling it to other countries during a famine.
- Joseph was a powerful man, a ruler in Egypt. It had been a long time since his brothers had seen him and they did not recognize him.
- Joseph could have had his brothers arrested and killed. Instead, he showed forgiveness. He sent food for his family.
- His brothers returned to Egypt a second time and brought along with them their youngest brother, Benjamin.

STEP 5: Ask: Why might it have been hard for Joseph to forgive his brothers? Share these key concepts:

- Biblical forgiveness is choosing not to hold someone's sin against him or her.
- It's choosing to be kind, choosing to keep loving that person and forgetting about the sin even if the person doesn't deserve it (Ephesians 4:32).
- God gives us the command to be kind and tenderhearted or compassionate. That means that we should truly love one another and want what is best for that other person.
- God expects us to forgive others because He has forgiven us.

STEP 6: Ask: Has there ever been a time when someone hurt you or upset you or made you angry? Remind kids that forgiveness is hard sometimes, but when we read the Bible and pray, the Holy Spirit will change our heart and help us to forgive (Ephesians 3:16). Encourage kids to remember that God will give them grace to forgive others.

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Unit 4.5: Grace to be Transformed

We are born enemies of God, but because God loves us, He offers us grace through Jesus Christ. When we trust Jesus as Savior, we are a new creation and the Holy Spirit helps transform us to be more like Jesus.

Memory Verse: 2 Corinthians 5:17

Lesson Objectives:

- WE DESERVE THE PUNISHMENT FOR SIN. Learn what we were like as sinners and realize that our punishment for sin should have been death and believe that we were once enemies of Christ because of our sin.
- GOD GAVE US MERCY AND GRACE. Understand that because of grace, God offers us forgiveness for sin through Jesus Christ.
- GOD MADE US A NEW CREATION. Recognize that when we trust Jesus as Savior, we become a new creation. The Holy Spirit lives in us and transforms us to become more like Christ.
- GOD WANTS US TO CONTINUE TO BE TRANSFORMED. Determine to allow the Holy Spirit to continue to transform our lives so that we can be unashamed workers for God's glory.

Talk about it:

- Paul was a blasphemer and a persecutor. What did he deserve? What did God give him instead?
- How did Paul spend the rest of his life after he trust Christ as his Savior?
- What is grace?



Encouragement for you:

When we change our clothes or change how our furniture is arranged, there is an assumption that we can change it back. When we accept Jesus as Savior, we are changed by God – permanently. 2 Corinthians 5:17 tells us that we are a new creation. In God's sight you have become the opposite of what you once were. As you grow in your relationship with God, God will give you grace to become more and more like the Jesus Christ.

T&T Announcements

Family Activity: Drastic Changes

What You'll Need:

Baking soda, water, food coloring, bowl, rimmed glasses or plastic containers, white vinegar, empty squirt bottles

PREP: Make a ball of dough out of baking soda, water and food coloring by mixing one cup of baking soda, four teaspoons of water, and one or two drops of food coloring in a bowl. Place the dough ball in a rimmed glass or plastic container. Pour a half cup of vinegar into the squirt bottle.

STEP 1: Put the container of dough on a table and have kids gather around the table. Place squirt bottle near the container of dough. Choose someone to hold the squirt bottle. At your signal, have them begin to squirt the dough ball. After a few squirts, encourage other kids to squirt the dough ball. Repeat with different colored balls if you have a large group. Ask the following questions:

- What happened when the vinegar in the bottle came into contact with the ball of dough? (The ball fizzed.)
- Why do you think this happened? (Explain to kids that this happened because the vinegar caused a chemical reaction to the baking soda, changing its appearance.)

STEP 2: Share these key concepts:

- Just like the dough ball changed, when we trust Jesus as Savior, we change too! Our lives after salvation are completely opposite of what we were like before salvation.
- We sometimes call the difference “transformation.” God wants to completely transform us to become more like His Son.
- We are sinners who deserve the punishment of death and hell because of our sin (Romans 3:23, Romans 6:23a).
- Instead of the punishment we deserve, God sent Jesus Christ, His Son, to take the punishment for our sin by dying on the cross (Ephesians 2:4-5).
- After we trust Jesus as Savior, we are justified. God sees us as righteous, and we are adopted into His family (2 Corinthians 5:17, Ephesians 1:5, 1 John 3:1-2).

STEP 3: Read or recite this week’s memory verse, 2 Corinthians 5:17. Share these key concepts:

- When we trust Jesus as our Savior, we are changed. God sees us as justified! It’s as if we are a new creation.
- We are not the same as we were before salvation

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Unit 4.6: Grace in Action

When we remember how much grace God gives to us, we should want to show grace to others. The Holy Spirit can make us willing and strong to help others.

Memory Verse: Galatians 6:9-10

Lesson Objectives:

- WE CAN EXTEND GRACE. Develop a desire to show grace to others after remembering how much grace Christ has given them.
- WE CAN HELP OTHERS. Name some of the reasons people might need help, realize that God can use anyone as a helper and believe they can rely on the Holy Spirit to help them do good to others, even when they don't feel like doing good.
- WE ARE PART OF GOD'S FAMILY. Gain a proper priority for helping those in their Christian family and think first of practical ways to help those in their church who are in need; then think of some ways to help those outside their Christian family.

Talk about it:

- When you don't feel like helping others, what could you remember?
- When someone is hard to love, how can remembering God's grace help you to be loving toward them?
- Can you remember a time this week when you showed grace in how you acted toward others?



Encouragement for you:

Galatians 6:9-10 tells us to do good to everyone, especially those in our Christian family. We don't always feel like helping others or showing them grace, especially in stressful situations or when the recipient isn't thankful, but the Holy Spirit will give us strength. When people who don't believe in Jesus Christ see our love for each other, they will be attracted to that love and want what we have, a relationship with God. How can you show grace and love your family this week?

T&T Announcements

Family Activity: Construction Helpers

What You'll Need:

Spaghetti noodles, mini marshmallows, paper plates, yard stick or measuring tape, small prize

PREP: Divide the spaghetti noodles evenly onto paper plates (one plate for every 2 children). Divide the marshmallows evenly onto the paper plates.

STEP 1: Divide kids into groups of two. Give each group a plate of dry spaghetti noodles and a plate of marshmallows.

STEP 2: At your signal, have groups work together to build a tower, using only the spaghetti noodles and the marshmallows. After a few minutes, have them stop building. Use the yardstick to measure the height of each tower and give the small prize to each member of the group that built the tallest tower. Ask the following questions:

- How did having other group members make building the tower easier?
- Why do you think it's important to help others?

STEP 3: Share these key concepts:

- God offers us grace through Jesus Christ, and when we trust Jesus as Savior, we become a member of God's family.
- God wants us to help and encourage others.
- As a part of God's family, we can learn to show grace to others and help them grow in grace too.

STEP 4: Read or recite this week's memory verses, Galatians 6:9-10. Share these key concepts:

- We are encouraged to continue doing good, even when it would be easy to grow weary of it.
- When we continue to do good, even when it is hard, we will reap blessings.
- God wants us to help others, especially those who are a part of His family.

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Unit 4.7: Grace to Persevere

God is always with you. Even during a difficult time, you can trust that God loves you and will give you the grace you need to persevere.

Memory Verse: Deuteronomy 31:6

Lesson Objectives:

- WE WILL FACE HARD TIMES. Recognize that Christians will face struggles.
- WE CAN PERSEVERE THROUGH GRACE. Understand that God uses trials in our lives to prepare us for what He wants us to do in the future.
- WE ARE NOT ALONE. Know that we are NEVER alone in the difficult circumstances: God is always with us.
- Pray about a situation they are facing and ask God to be with them through it.

Talk about it:

- How can you remember to be strong and courageous when you face something hard?
- What's a quick prayer you could pray when you feel discouraged?
- What's the next thing that you need to persevere in and how could God's grace help you?



Encouragement for you:

God promised that He would ALWAYS be with you to help you (Deuteronomy 31:6). You can trust that God will help you to persevere. When you persevere, don't give up, you will finish strong and become more like Jesus. You can trust that God will help you do whatever He has asked you to do. Raising a family is probably the hardest job in the world. But God is faithful and will give you the strength and wisdom you need to complete the work He created for you to do. Don't give up!

T&T Announcements

Family Activity: Quitting vs. Persevering

What You'll Need:
Styrofoam cups, marker

PREP: Color the rims of two Styrofoam cups with a marker. Stack 30 cups on top of each of the prepared cups. Ask two adults to compete in a cup stacking challenge. Ask both to mess up but ask one to give up and quit the activity and the other to keep going to the end.

STEP 1: Give each adult a stack of prepared cups and explain that the leader who is the first to restack the cups one at a time so that the marked cup is on top is the winner. If two adults are not available, an older sibling could participate or start by giving up the first time through, then repeat the activity and continue to the end.

STEP 2: After the stacking begins, observe the kids' responses when they struggle and one quits. After the activity, ask the kids to compare the attitudes of the two adults. Ask the following questions:

- How would you feel if it was you who messed up?
- Why is it sometimes hard to finish a task after you mess up?

STEP 3: Share these key concepts:

- God doesn't promise that life will always be easy. In fact, we will face hard times.
- How we respond during hard times depends on whether or not we rely on God.
- If you have trusted Jesus as Savior, then God is always with you. He will give you grace to persevere in whatever task you face.

STEP 4: Read or recite this week's memory verse, Deuteronomy 31:6. Share these key concepts:

- The book of Deuteronomy was written to God's people, the Israelites.
- God promised His people that He would never leave them or stop taking care of them.
- God will keep that promise to all who trust in Jesus as Savior.

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Unit 4.8: Living by Grace... Review

God continues to bless us with grace through our lives as the Holy Spirit teaches us how to be more like Jesus, how to obey, how to forgive, how to help others, how to persevere and how to tell others the good news of God's grace.

Memory Verse: Romans 8:1a, Galatians 3:11, James 4:6, Ephesians 4:32, 2 Corinthians 5:17, Galatians 6:9-10, Deuteronomy 31:6

Lesson Objectives:

- GOD'S GIFT IS FREE. Review that grace is giving someone something good that he or she doesn't deserve. We can do nothing to earn God's grace. It is a free gift.
- WE CANNOT EARN GRACE. Recognize that God's grace is freely offered to everyone. We only need to have faith in Christ to receive His grace.
- GOD'S GRACE HELPS US GROW. Believe that God gives grace to be saved and justified. His grace remains after we are saved to help us through whatever life situations we face and to teach us how to grow in Christ.
- GOD'S GRACE HELPS US AVOID SIN. Understand that the Holy Spirit helps us resist sin.
- GOD'S GRACE HELPS US CHANGE. Trust that God's grace will help us learn to be humble, forgive, help, persevere and tell others the good news of Jesus.

Talk about it:

- We are to do good things for others. What will we receive after Christ comes back for the good things we did while on earth?
- We should look for ways to do good things for everyone, but what people should we especially try to do good things for? Why?
- What are some ways we can do good things for others?



Encouragement for you:

Your child has just finished learning about so much about God, the Bible, redemption and ways to have an active faith. You have also been on a journey along with him or her and it's time to celebrate what God is doing in your life. As you look back, what is the one insight that you want to take with you?

T&T Announcements

Family Activity: A-MAZE-ing Grace

What You'll Need:

Chairs, large cardboard box, Hula-Hoop®, masking tape, rope

PREP: Set up a maze in one of your rooms using the suggested items above (e.g., have kids walk around chairs, have them crawl through the box, have them jump on an X in the middle of the Hula-hoop, have them hop over a rope tied between two chairs).

STEP 1: Have each child go through the maze. If time allows, blindfold a volunteer and ask him or her to choose a guide to lead them through the maze. Ask: What part of the maze was the most challenging for you?

STEP 2: Share these key concepts:

- A Christian's life is often like a maze. We might not be sure of which decision to make or where to go.
- There will be times in our lives when we are uncertain of our future. We may face hard times and challenges and we may have difficulty getting along with others.
- We have the grace of God to face any situation, whether it is easy and happy or hard and discouraging. And when we rely on the Holy Spirit's help, we will grow closer to God through His grace.

STEP 3: Review the memory verses and share these key concepts:

- God's grace is freely offered to everyone. God gives us grace through His gift of salvation. Christ took the punishment we deserve for our sin and when we place our faith in Christ and believe that He died for our sin and came to life again, then we will be saved from sin's punishment (John 3:16).
- There is nothing we can do to earn grace. It is a free gift from God (Ephesians 2:8-9, Galatians 3:2-3).
- When we trust Christ as Savior, we are justified. The Holy Spirit lives in us and helps us learn more about who God is and how we can be transformed to be more like Christ (Romans 5:1-2, 2 Corinthians 5:17).
- Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we can say no to sin and become more like Jesus (John 14:26).
- God's grace will help us learn to be humble, forgive, help, persevere and tell others the good news of grace through Jesus Christ (James 4:6, Ephesians 4:32, Galatians 6:9-10, Deuteronomy 31:6, Ephesians 2:8-10).