

WEEK 2

GOD IS GRACIOUS

GOD DOES NOT GIVE PEOPLE WHAT THEY DESERVE

PRIMARY LESSON GUIDE

THE FOUR KEYS

KEY VERSE

He saved us, not because of works done by us but according to His own mercy. Titus 3:5

KEY IDEAS

1. Our sin deserves punishment.
2. God seeks us out in our sin to offer forgiveness.
3. We are forgiven when we trust that Jesus took our punishment.

KEY PASSAGE

Luke 19:1-10

KEY PRINCIPLES

 **EVERY CHILD SHOULD KNOW ...**

that God is gracious and offers to forgive our sins when we do not deserve it.

 **EVERY CHILD SHOULD FEEL ...**

loved by God who seeks to save us.

 **EVERY CHILD SHOULD BE ABLE TO ...**

identify ways that God has been gracious to us even when we don't deserve it.

 **EVERY CHILD SHOULD WANT ...**

to know how to receive God's grace.

INTRODUCTION

The Bible says in Romans 3:23 that all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. This means that every person who has ever lived has chosen to reject God and our sin deserves punishment. We deserve complete separation from God because we have chosen to worship ourselves over Him, the One who created us all and has given us life. However, God is so full of grace that He gives us exactly the opposite of what we deserve. 1 Peter 3:9 tells us that it is not God's will that anyone should die, but that we should all have eternal life in Him. Instead of punishing us all for our sin, God made a way for us to be saved by sending His only Son, Jesus, to take the punishment for us. Instead of receiving punishment, we are given the ability to receive God's grace, a gift we could not earn. We receive God's grace through forgiveness when we repent of our sin and trust in Him.

OPENING ILLUSTRATION

Direct the children to the window, allowing the taller kids to go in front. Ask them to identify a point of reference outside in the distance. When the smaller kids aren't able to see through the crowd, assist them in climbing up on a chair or raising them up to see better. Explain that this is what Zacchaeus did. He had heard about Jesus and was curious so he tried to get a better look by climbing up in the sycamore tree. Then Jesus saw him, called him by name, and went to his house. Zacchaeus received salvation because Jesus called out to him and he believed. God's grace allows us to see clearly and have faith.

STORY

Read Luke 19:1-10 or use the Jesus Storybook Bible.

Zacchaeus was a chief tax collector. He was a thief like many tax collectors who would take more money than they were supposed to take from people. He became rich because he took extra from people's taxes that he collected. Because of this, many people hated him. When he heard that Jesus was coming by, he wanted to get a better look and find out what this man Jesus had to say.

We can see an example of God's grace in this story. Zacchaeus had done nothing to deserve Jesus's attention, but it was no accident that Zacchaeus was there that day. Jesus knew everything about Zacchaeus, and He went to his house to eat, despite what others might say or think. Zacchaeus had done nothing to earn God's favor, and yet Jesus loved him anyway. Zacchaeus received salvation that day all because of God's great grace and love for him. God is gracious to all of us and His grace provides salvation to all who believe in Him.

ACTIVITY

Teach the children the song "Zacchaeus Was a Wee Little Man". Play "Spot the Difference" with the worksheet in your packet.

PRAYER

Thank God for giving us grace and showing us the way to be saved when we haven't done anything to deserve it. Ask God to help you show grace to others even when they don't deserve it.

SONG

"Amazing Grace"

FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

Titus 2:11, Psalm 18:30, John 1:14, Ephesians 2:5

ACTIVITY

As a family, spend some time making a list of all the gifts God has given your family. Help your child think of the many things that God has given to your family. Remind them that God's greatest gift of all is Jesus, His Son, by whom we have the gift of grace and forgiveness when we repent of sin and believe in Him. Discuss the story of Zacchaeus using the questions below.

DISCUSSION

- Why did Zacchaeus climb the tree?
He had heard about Jesus and was drawn to learn more.
- What does it mean when God seeks out those who are lost?
No one desires to know God on their own because we are lost in our sin. God draws us to Himself through His Word or through other people who follow Him faithfully.
- How did Jesus show grace to Zacchaeus?
Zacchaeus was not well liked by others because tax collectors were often thieves. Jesus noticed him and called down to him and offered him forgiveness. Zacchaeus was saved because he followed Jesus.

PRAYER

Thank God for offering us grace when we do not deserve it. Ask God to you believe and see Him more clearly.

“Zacchaeus Was a Wee Little Man”

Zacchaeus was a wee, little man,
(Squat down on the word “wee”)

And a wee, little man was he.
(Squat down on “wee”)

He climbed up in a sycamore tree,
(Pretend to climb, alternating hands)

For the Lord he wanted to see.
(Shade eyes and look around)

And as the Savior came that way,
(Swing arms while marching)

He looked up in the tree,
(Shade eyes and look up)

And he said, “Zacchaeus, you come down,”
(Gesture with hand “Come”)

For I’m going to your house today.
For I’m going to your house today.

Spot the Differences in Zacchaeus Met Jesus

Compare the picture on the top with the picture on bottom. Circle the 11 things that are different.

