

BANANA NEWS



GO DEEPER

BOTTOM LINE

FOLLOWING JESUS MEANS SHOWING GOD'S GRACE TO OTHERS

MEMORY VERSE

Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect. **Romans 12:2 (NLT)**

BIBLE PASSAGES

DAY 1: Read - Exodus 34:6, John 1:17

The Exodus verse tells us that God is gracious. John tells us that grace came through Jesus. But what is grace? Merriam-Webster defines grace as being given "a special favor, privilege". Grace is receiving something you don't deserve. When someone is unkind to you and you say something kind back to them, you are showing grace. They may not have deserved for you to be kind, but you chose to show them kindness anyway. When is a time you were shown grace by someone?

DAY 2: Read - Romans 3:23, Ephesians 2:8, Romans 5:8

Why do we need to be saved? What saves us? There is another important thing to know about God's grace: it is a free gift. God sent Jesus to take the punishment for our sins so that we could be given the gift of life in Heaven, not because of anything we have done, but because He loves us.

DAY 3: Read - Ephesians 4:29, Colossians 3:13, Romans 12:18

Grace looks like giving someone something good, even when they don't deserve it. That is what God did for us when He offered us the gift of being with Him forever. These verses don't have the word grace in them, but they do show what it looks like to be gracious towards others. What are the actions in these verses that show grace? How can you show grace to someone this week?

DAY 4: Read - Acts 20:20-24, Matthew 28:19, John 3:16

What task did Paul say Jesus had given to him? Before Jesus left for Heaven, what task did He give to His followers? God wants us to share His gift of grace with everyone! No one deserves to be with God in Heaven, but He loves us so much He made it possible through Jesus. Practice memorizing John 3:16. Sharing this verse with others is a great first step in sharing God's gift of grace. We should give grace to others because we have received it from God.

DAY 5: Read - Matthew 20:1-16, Galatians 3:28

Who worked hardest in the parable? Do you think the landowner was fair? How did the master show grace? Grace doesn't always look fair, and it's not! Grace is getting something we don't deserve. We can't work harder and earn it. God's grace is given equally to everyone. Whether you choose to follow Him as a child or at the age of 93, God offers His grace to everyone, and so should we.



GOD'S GREAT GRACE

Materials: Paper, Art Supplies

Jesus used parables to teach His disciples about the Kingdom of God. Jesus used the parable of the workers in the vineyard to illustrate God's graciousness. God is gracious, and He offers His grace freely. Grace means getting something you don't deserve. When we choose to ask God for forgiveness for our sins and to trust and obey Jesus, our sins are washed away and we become a part of God's family. What a wonderful, undeserved gift! Today, let's share some of the ways we've received God's grace. As a family, create a beautiful mural of our gracious God. Use words and pictures that remind you of God's grace. You can create your mural on paper with various art supplies or outside on the sidewalk with chalk!



FOUNTAIN OF GRACE

Materials: Bottle of Coke, 3 Mentos, Paper Rolled into a Quarter-Sized Tube

WARNING: You will want to do this activity outside!!!

Open your mentos candies, and drop them in the paper tube. Then, open your bottle of coke. Remember God pours His grace into our lives, and we give grace because we have received it from God. Drop the mentos, all at once, into the open soda bottle, and step back as it erupts into the air. God's grace is a powerful thing and it can flow out of us onto everyone around us!



MEMORY IN MOTION

Materials: None

Create or learn motions to go along with the memory verse. You can use the American Sign Language Online Dictionary to look up signs for different words in the verse, or create your own motions that use your whole body, including movements like stomping, turning, crouching, etc. Get creative and get memorizing