

“The Grace of God”  
Family Devotional Guide  
Week of 5/17/2020

Introduction:

Last week we talked about the mercy of God: ***Mercy: Showing compassion, kindness or forgiveness to someone who deserves to be punished (NOT getting what we DO deserve).***

Today we will look at the grace of God: ***Grace: Grace is getting what we don't deserve – God's Riches At Christ's Expense - the freely given, unmerited favor and love of God (GETTING WHAT WE DO NOT deserve).***

**Say:** Paul opens and closes each of his letters with a blessing of grace:

**Openings:** **Read (choose as many as you wish) – Romans 1:7; 1 Corinthians 1:3; 2 Corinthians 1:2; Galatians 1:3; Ephesians 1:2; Philippians 1:2; Colossians 1:2; 1 Thessalonians 1:1; 2 Thessalonians 1:2; 1 Timothy 1:2; 2 Timothy 1:2; Titus 1:4; Philemon 1:3.**

**Closings:** **Read (choose as many as you wish) – Philemon 1:25; Titus 3:15; 2 Timothy 4:22; 1 Timothy 6:21; 2 Thessalonians 3:18; 1 Thessalonians 5:28; Colossians 4:18; Philippians 4:23; Ephesians 6:24; Galatians 6:18; 2 Corinthians 13:13; 1 Corinthians 16:23; Romans 16:20.**

**Ask:** What do you think God, through Paul is trying to say to us from His Word?

**Ask:** What is the common word in each of those verses you read (opening and closing)? Sometimes there are other words in the blessings, but what is the word that is ALWAYS there?

**Ask:** In each of the verses, where does the grace come from? Does it come from us?

**Say:** Grace starts “from God”. He gives it to us without our earning it or deserving it.

**Read:** Romans 11:34-35

**Say:** The Christian life begins with grace. When we accept God's gift of salvation, it isn't anything we do – it's His gift to us! We don't deserve it, we didn't earn it, so we can't brag (boast) about it.

**Read:** Ephesians 2:8-9

**Say:** Salvation isn't the “end” of grace in our lives. There's more!

**Say:** God intends for us to keep growing in grace and in the knowledge of Jesus.

**Read:** 2 Peter 3:18

Not this:

←————→  
GRACE

But this:

←————→  
GRACE. G. R. A. C. E. G. R. A. C. E. G. R. A. C. E. G. R. A. C. E. G. R. A. C. E. G. R. A. C. E. G. R. A. C. E. ....

**Say:** Paul has in mind in his blessings of grace, future grace – starting now. Yes, in the past you've known grace, but keep knowing grace.

**Say:** Grace is the key to Christian living – living for Jesus

**Read:** 1 Corinthians 15:10

**Say:** Everyday Paul needed, and we need, the grace of God in our lives and in our service for God, not just for salvation, but for living!

**Say:** God's Word is the channel of God's grace to you.

**Read:** Acts 14:3; Acts 20:32

**Say:** The Word of God is the primary instrument of grace in the life of the believer and the church. The Holy Spirit confirms the Word, makes the Word make sense to us (illuminates the Word), increases our faith by the Word, and then empowers us to live out what the Word said to us.

**Say:** As individual believers, and as the Church, as we are people of the Word, grace will be evident.

**The church's mission:** to display the grace of God to all people with the responsibility to:

- **Win a person to Jesus, (Grace for salvation – Ephesians 2:8-9)**
- **Disciple a person in Jesus, (Grace for living – 2 Peter 3:18)**
- **Send a person for Jesus. (Grace passed on – Acts 14:3; 1 Cor. 15:10)**

**Ask:** So, what do we do?

- Live in grace – be confident of it, bank on it, trust in it, and be satisfied by it so we can know the power and freedom and joy of walking with Jesus.
- Display God's grace to EVERYONE! – Grace is not earned or deserved by us – so show it to all people, even when they don't deserve it either.