

Family Night- Taking the TIME to Connect!

## GRACE

**Memory Verse:** Romans 6:23 *For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

**Activity 1:** The Gift of Grace.

- Prep Needed- You will need purchase gift cards for each of your children. The amount does not matter it could be as small as \$1.00 for a Wendy's frosty the purpose is for them to receive it free and be able to use it.
- Summary- Show how God's grace is given to them freely, but the price was paid by Christ.

**Open with Prayer:** Have someone from your family to open up your time together asking the Lord to help everyone to understand that we all have a debt we are unable to pay and see how God's grace works in our lives.

**Parent Direction:**

Ask:

*What did you like about getting a gift card? (I liked buying stuff, etc.)*

*Did you have to pay for the stuff? (No)*

*Who paid for the stuff? (You—Dad or Mom—did)*

Grace (God's kindness and salvation) is God's gift to us.

*God's Redemption At Christ's Expense*

*How is God's grace like a gift card? (We can't buy God's grace, it is a gift; Jesus paid the price for our salvation when He died on the cross, we can't earn it.)*

Salvation is a free gift from God; we can't work for or earn it. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

Say a prayer of thanks to God for His grace to us.

**Activity 2:** Grace sets us free

Read or tell the following true story.

This story takes place during the 1930s, during the Great Depression in our country. One night the mayor of New York City, Fiorello LaGuardia showed up at a night court in one of the poorest wards of the city. He dismissed the presiding judge for the evening and sent him home to his family. Then the mayor himself took over the bench.

As it happened on that bitterly cold night, a tattered old woman stood before the bench, accused of stealing a loaf of bread. You must understand these were desperate times. A lot of people were going hungry. With quivering lips and tear-filled eyes, she admitted to the theft. But, she added, "My daughter's husband has deserted her, she is sick, and her children are crying because they have nothing to eat."

Remember short and simple and to the point.

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The shopkeeper, however, refused to drop the charges. "It's a bad neighborhood, your honor, she's guilty," he shouted. "The law must be upheld, she's got to be punished to teach other people a lesson."

LaGuardia knew that her accuser was right. The very office that he swore to uphold required that he enforce the law.

LaGuardia sighed. He turned to the old woman and said, "I've got to punish you; the law makes no exceptions."

He then pronounced the sentence. The old woman shuddered when she heard the words, "Ten dollars or ten days in jail." But, already the judge was reaching into his pocket. He pulled out a ten-dollar bill and threw it into his hat. "Here's the ten dollar fine, which I now pay. Furthermore, I'm fining everyone in this courtroom fifty cents for living in a town where a person has to steal bread so t her grandchildren can eat. Mr. Bailiff, collect the fines and give them to the defendant."

Sitting in that courtroom that night were about seventy petty criminals, a few New York policemen, and her accuser, a fuming, red-faced, storekeeper. The bewildered old grandmother left the courtroom with \$47.50. This was enough to buy groceries for several months.

(Taken from [www.giveshare.org](http://www.giveshare.org))

Ask:

*Was the shopkeeper correct in his accusation?*

*Was the old woman guilty?*

*Who paid the penalty? (Judge)*

*What happened to the woman? (She went away free and with more than she had)*

This true story is a picture of God's grace to us. God said the penalty for sin is death (Romans 6:23). We are guilty of sin. Jesus paid the penalty and when we receive what Jesus did, we are able to go free and have many blessings. He is even going to bring us to live with Him in Heaven some day.

**Main Point:** Our sin requires a payment that God paid through Jesus Christ's death

**Take Away:** God's gift = eternal life with HIM