



Kids Club

Leader Guide

Nov

Week 3

November 16, 2025



GRATITUDE



SUPPLIES

Opening Game: Missing the Mark Toss

- 3 hula hoops
 - Masking tape
 - At least 15 bean bags (enough for 3 children to use at a time)
 - Note pad and pen (for keeping score)
 - Black paper hearts with tape on back (1 per child)
 - Black heart for Large Group Teacher
- *You will put the black hearts on before heading into worship and giving.

Large Group Teaching: Black Hearts Replaced By Grace

- White paper hearts with a piece of candy taped on (1 per child)
 - White paper heart for Large Group Teacher
 - A large gift bag (place paper hearts with candy inside)
 - A Jesus robe for a leader
 - A crown of twine (representing the crown of thorns)
- *Have the Jesus robe, crown of thorns, and gift bag full of white hearts + candy on hand ahead of time.

SUPPLIES cont.

Verse Challenge: Bean Bag Verse Toss

- 6 pieces of masking tape (will break memory verse apart into six sections)
- Bean bags from opening game

Small Group Activity: Paid in Full

- Fake paper money
- White board
- Marker
- Eraser
- Gift box
- Picture of a cross with words "paid in full" written on it (in files)

Series Overview

This series teaches kids all about how they can be grateful because of what God has done for them. We will begin by learning about God's great might, goodness, and love. Next, we will learn about being thankful in all circumstances. We will finish this series by learning with gratitude about God's greatest gift – His grace that came through Jesus Christ.

Lesson Overview

Today's lesson shares the most important gift God ever gave us, grace and salvation through Jesus Christ.

Lesson 3



Lesson 3:
God's Gift of Grace



Bible Verses:
Romans 3:23-25, Ephesians 2:8-9, John 3:16-17



Memory Verse:
Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good! His faithful love
endures forever. Psalm 136:1 (NLT)



Bottom Line
We can thank God for the greatest gift
He ever gave us, Jesus

Teacher Note:
* : Indicates directions for the teacher
Prep: Indicates what needs to be prepared prior to the teaching

OPENING GAME

Missing the Mark Toss

How to Play: Set up three hula hoops with point values (five, ten and fifteen points). Put down a masking tape line several feet back from the hula hoops. The children cannot cross this line when tossing their bean bags. Put piles of bean bags by the standing line. The children may toss five bean bags each. Keep the notepad and pen nearby to keep score for the children.

Have the black paper hearts on hand so that each child can put a black paper heart on their shirt before heading to worship and giving. Have leaders on hand ready to help with this.

*For larger group sizes, set up multiple hula hoop games and split the children into smaller groups for the game. Reconvene before heading into worship and giving.

SAY: Hello, friends! Welcome back!

We have a fun game today. You are going to stand behind this line and try to toss five bean bags into the hula hoops over there.

This hula hoop is worth five points, this one is worth ten points, and this one is worth 15 points.

You are going to take turns, and I'm going to write down how many points you get.

Remember, don't cross this line when you throw your bean bags.

Ready?

*Guide the children through the game. Some may manage to get all five bean bags into the hula hoops, some will come up short. That is okay for the lesson.

Well done, friends, that was fun.

Did you notice that some of the bean bags came up short?

Sometimes the bean bag didn't land on the mark you wanted it to – even if you were trying your very best – because none of us are perfect and get it right all the time.

Today we are going to learn about the most important and special gift God ever gave us, His Son Jesus, who came and was perfect for us because we never can be.

We are going to learn that we can thank God for the greatest gift He ever gave us, Jesus.

Before we go to worship and giving I'm going to give each of you a black heart to tape on your shirt.

**Pass out the black hearts, and have leaders ready to help with this task. The leader who will teach in Large Group also needs to put a black heart on.*

This will be important for our lesson later.

LESSON

**Have the chosen leader dressed in the Jesus robe and "crown of thorns" ahead of the Bible teaching. Have the gift bag full of white hearts and candy ready ahead of time.*

SAY: Friends, I am very excited about today's Bible lesson.

We're going to read the best news ever.

This news has changed the world, saved millions of lives, and has changed my life forever.

We are going to learn about God's greatest gift to us, Jesus, who came with grace to save us from our sins.

What does that mean?

Let me explain.

Do you all see the black hearts you put on your shirt?

**Let the children look at their hearts.*

These black paper hearts represent the way our hearts are before we choose to follow Jesus.

Every person in the world starts out with a heart full of sin.

It doesn't matter where you live, what color of skin you have, how much money your parents have, or what kind of food you eat ... everyone has a heart of sin.

When we sin, that means that we miss the target or come up short of being perfect like God is perfect.

We can use the game to help us understand this part of the lesson.

Remember how we tried to throw the bean bags into the hula hoops, but some of them missed the hula hoop and landed on the floor instead?

We were supposed to get the bean bags into the hula hoops ... but not everyone could it all the time.

Missing the hula hoop represents us sinning – we miss the target, and that messes things up!

(Now, it's not actually a sin to miss getting a bean bag into a hula hoop. This is just an example to help us understand!)

God is perfect and never sins.

But we do sin, we don't always make the right choice, just like we can't throw the bean bag into the hula hoop every time.

This happens to every human on earth. In fact, I'm going to read three Bible verses about it.

***Read Romans 3:23-25.**

23 For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.

24 Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins.

25 For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood...

SAY: Every one of us has sinned. I've sinned, you've sinned, your parents have sinned ... every person in the whole world has sinned.

Unlike us, God is perfect and has no sin.

Sin is the opposite of God, so God had to find a way to get rid of our sin forever so that we could join His family and be close to Him.

This was God showing us grace.

Grace means that God gives you something good and perfect even though you don't deserve it.

We cannot earn God's grace. Your mom and dad work at their jobs to earn money to pay for your house and food, but we cannot pay God to get rid of our sin and give us grace.

We cannot win enough games to get God to give us His grace.

We cannot be kind enough, strong enough, beautiful enough, funny enough, or smart enough to get God's grace on our own.

God gave us His grace as a gift, and a gift is something someone gives you without you doing anything to earn it.

God knew that we could not save ourselves from sin.

He knew we would never be able to be perfect enough to be close to Him, so He sent Jesus to help us.

Let's hear why He sent Jesus.

***Read John 3:16-17.**

16 "For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.

17 God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him.

SAY: Wow, did you know that without Jesus, when you died someday, you would be separated and lost from God forever?

Without Jesus, we are stuck with our sinful hearts and we are separated from God.

Without Jesus, we can't be close to Him or join His family.

But God loved you so much that He wanted to get close to you, so Jesus came to earth.

He lived as a human, and when He was a grown-up He died on the cross and He picked up all the sins from everyone on earth and He took care of them.

Now, all we have to do to get close to God and be free from our sin is to accept the gift of grace through Jesus, and He takes away your sinful heart and gives you a new, clean heart instead.

I will show you what this looks like in a minute, but first we are going to read two more Bible verses.

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

8 God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God.

9 Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.

Salvation means being saved from our sins.

It is a gift from God that we accept and receive.

We don't earn it from Him by being good, because we can never be good enough on our own.

God wants His Son, Jesus, to get all the glory and praise and thanks for saving us from our sins.

Let me show you what this looks like to accept the gift of grace and salvation from Jesus.

**Show Slide 7 – Black Hearts Replaced By Grace*

**Have the Jesus leader come out, carrying a big gift bag.*

SAY: Look, here is Jesus.

I have a yucky, black heart of sin here.

**Have Jesus shake His head and look sad.*

I know this heart is sinful and yucky.

I need it to be gone so I can get close to God and join His family.

ASK: Can I pay Jesus lots of money to take my sinful heart away?

**Have the children answer, "No!"*

Nope, that's not grace, because grace is something that Jesus gives me as a gift. I don't pay for it.

ASK: Can I just try to be really good all the time and never mess up so my sinful heart will go away?

**Have the children answer, "No!"*

Of course not!

I'm not perfect. I'm going to mess up, just like sometimes you messed up when you were trying to toss the bean bags into the hula hoop.

There's only one way I can get rid of my sinful heart and get a clean new one.

***Have the Jesus figure pull a white heart out of the gift box and offer it to you.**

Whoa, Jesus is offering me the gift of a new, clean heart ... one that He paid for by dying on the cross.

All I have to do is accept it, to take it from His Hand.

That's what it means to believe in Jesus and choose to follow Jesus.

It means that you say, "Yes, Jesus, I want to accept your gift of a clean heart. Thank you for taking away all my sin on the cross."

***Take hold of the clean white heart from Jesus, and pull off the black heart with your other hand.**

Now, I am going to give Him my yucky, sinful heart and accept the clean heart without sin.

***Make the trade. You will tape the new heart on, and Jesus will tear up the black heart into tiny pieces and throw them on the ground.**

Wow!

Did you see that?

It's gone! All my sin is gone!

Jesus took care of it. He gave me the gift of a clean heart so I can be close to God and join His family!

All I had to do was receive the gift of grace Jesus offered me, and I'm saved!

Let's cheer for Jesus to say thank you!

***Cheer for Jesus.**

Now, Jesus has something to offer each of you too. When He comes around, give him your black hearts, and he will have something to give you in return.

***Have Jesus walk around the room, taking the black hearts from the children and pulling out the white hearts with candy taped on them from His gift bag. Let the children enjoy their candy, and wait until things calm down a bit to continue.**

***Show Bottom Line: We can thank God for the greatest gift He ever gave us, Jesus**

My friends, none of us can get rid of our sinful hearts on our own.

God knew this, so He gave us the greatest gift in the whole world.

He gave us Jesus to take away our sin and give us new, clean hearts.

Every day, I want to give thanks to God for the greatest gift He ever gave us, Jesus!

Verse Challenge: Bean Bag Verse Toss

Memory Verse

"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good! His faithful love endures forever."

Psalms 136:1

*Put down six strips of masking tape with the verse written on them like this:

- 1 - give thanks
- 2 - to the Lord
- 3 - for He is good
- 4 - His faithful love
- 5 - endures forever
- 6 - Psalms 136:1

The children will stand several feet back and try to toss bean bags onto the verse in order while saying it out loud. You need six bean bags on hand.

SAY: This is our last week with this memory verse.

*Read Psalms 136:1.

Learning what Jesus did for us by offering the gift of grace and salvation makes this verse even more meaningful.

God didn't just love us from far away.

He wanted to love us up close, so close that He sent Jesus to make a way for us to join His family.

The truth of Jesus is something that makes me thankful every day.

Let's practice this together.

**Have the children Psalm 136:1, repeating the verse after you several times.*

Great job, everyone!

Now we are going to have some fun. See those tape strips over there?

The verse is written out on masking tape.

We are going to say the words out loud, and you are going to try and throw bean bags on the tape while you say the words.

**Demonstrate once*

We are going to take turns throwing the bean bags, but I want everyone to say the verse out loud every time someone is having a turn throwing the bean bags.

Ready?

**Guide the children through taking turns, saying the verse out loud as a group.*

Well done, guys!

Making Connections:

SAY: In this series, we first learned about God's love that endures forever.

That's so different from our love!

We get tired, weak, and angry because we are only human, and we aren't perfect.

But God loves us without end. His love is always there for us. He is always faithful even when we aren't.

Knowing how God's love for me is enduring and lasts forever makes me so thankful!

Then we learned about being thankful in any circumstance, good or bad.

The story of Paul and Silas showed us just how powerful it is to be thankful to God no matter what our circumstances are.

They were beaten and in jail, but they were still thankful to God.

God sent an earthquake and freed them, and instead of running away to freedom, they shared the gospel of Jesus with the jailer and he and his whole family were saved.

No matter what we feel or what is happening around us, we can always be thankful to God.

Today we learned about God's greatest gift, the grace and salvation that came through Jesus Christ.

Jesus took all our sins upon Himself on the cross and got rid of them forever, something we could never do on our own.

And now all we have to do is accept the gift of a clean heart from Him, and we are saved and in God's family forever.

That is an incredible miracle! Jesus truly is God's greatest gift to us.

If you spend a few minutes every day thinking about how God loves you, how He is always there no matter what is happening, and what Jesus did for you, thankfulness and praise will rise up in your heart.

I am so thankful for all God has done for me, I'm so thankful for Jesus, and I'm so thankful we got to spend these last few weeks learning these things together.

Group Activity – Paid in Full

*Have the gift box nearby. Inside of it is the paper with the cross that says "paid in full." Put the whiteboard where all the children can see. Pass out the fake money to the children.

SAY: Sometimes the Bible talks about sin as debts that we owe.

When you owe debt, you have to pay someone back for money that you borrowed.

Your parents may talk about debt sometimes ... maybe they still owe money for going to college or buying a house.

God is perfect and without sin, and we are not, but the truth is we can never pay God back for all the sin we have. It's literally impossible.

We are going to think of some sins and write them on the board here, and then I'm going to put some dollar amounts on here and we will see if we have enough money to pay God back for all our sins.

*Have the children help you come up with some sins, come up with some crazy dollar amounts in the millions. Cover the board and circle all the money owed amounts so they are obvious.

Yikes, do you see how much sin debt we have up there on the board?

ASK: How does it make you feel to look at that board?

*Let the children answer.

It makes me feel trapped, hopeless, and scared.

If I had all that debt and I could never pay it, my life would be miserable because I could never be free from debt!

That's what it's like with sin – you can never be free from it on your own. You are trapped in it.

Let's count all our money and see if we have enough to pay back all this sin debt.

*Collect and count the money.

ASK: Is this enough money to pay back that amount of sin debt?

*Have the children answer.

Nope, we can't. None of us can.

ASK: Who is the only person who can pay this back?

*Have the children answer, "Jesus."

That's right, Jesus paid for all our sins with His own life.

Someone must die to pay for sins, and Jesus gave His own life to pay for our sins.

But He's so big, so powerful, so pure and perfect that His life was big enough to pay in full. That means the whole amount for everyone in the world!

*Bring out the gift box.

All we have to do is accept the gift the Jesus offers us.

Let's look inside here.

*Look inside the box, pull out the paper with the cross that says "paid in full."

Paid in full means the whole amount of debt is taken care of, there is not one single penny of money left to pay.

When you choose to follow Jesus, you become free. There is no more sin debt. Jesus paid for all of it with His precious blood.

***Point to the board, and then erase it.**

Your sin debt is paid, and now you can be close to God and join His family. All we have to do is receive the gift that Jesus offers.

ASK: How does that make you feel?

***Have the children answer.**

I feel relieved, like I have wings and could fly because my heart is so light and happy.

I'm so thankful, I could jump up and down! I'm free!

Jesus died to save the world.

He gave us grace, which is something we could never earn and didn't deserve, and He offers us the gift of salvation.

All we have to do is accept it.

I will forever be thankful that God gave us the greatest gift ever, Jesus.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is sin?
2. Is there anything you can do to get rid of sin on your own?
3. Why did God need to send Jesus?
4. What did Jesus do on the cross for us?
5. How does that make you feel to know Jesus did that for you even though you don't deserve it and can't earn it?

***Encourage children to ask you any questions they have about salvation. This could be an opportunity to offer a chance for kids to begin following Jesus!**

***When your small group discussion has come to an end, close in prayer**