

MEMORY VERSE

"God's grace has saved you because of your faith in Christ. Your salvation doesn't come from anything you do. It is God's gift."

Ephesians 2:8, NIV

KEY QUESTION

Why do people give gifts?

BIBLE STORY

Grace is Gift

Ephesians 2: 8-9

LIFE APP

Faith-trusting in what you can't see because of what you can see.

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus is a gift for everyone.

ACTIVITY: READY, SET, SEARCH

What You Need: Piece of technology (phone, computer, tablet, etc., one per person if possible), paper, pen or pencil

What You Do:

Tear the paper into strips. Then grab your kid(s), technology, and pen, and find a place to sit.

Say, "What do you think would be some really amazing gifts? Like, the greatest gifts ever?"

Together, make a list of the greatest gifts you can think of. You can be as extravagant as you want! Make sure everyone adds in some ideas. Write each gift down on its own strip of paper and put them facedown where everyone can reach them.

Say, "We're going to have a search competition. We'll turn over each gift idea and see who can find the most expensive one of each of these. Ready, set, search!"

Take turns turning over each amazing gift idea and see who can find the most expensive one the fastest! (If you're sharing technology, take turns spending about 30 seconds each searching for the same item, without sharing what you find. Once everyone has had a chance to search, reveal what you found! The person with the most expensive item wins!)



Talk about the Bible story:

- * Name some things that we have to earn. (Grades, money, a spot on the team, a part in the play.)
- * What is the best gift you ever received? When was it and what was the occasion? (Discuss)
- * Why can it be hard to receive a gift given for no reason, out of the blue, completely random and free? (It doesn't seem "right" because usually we're only given things on special occasions or if we earn them)
- * In your own words, what is grace? (God's love, God's forgiveness, getting something you don't deserve, a gift)
- * Is it hard for you to believe that God's gift of grace through Jesus is free? Why or why not?
- * Jesus was sent to us as a gift from God. For free, no matter what, even when we mess up. That's grace. All we have to do to receive this gift is have faith.

Prayer

"Dear God, thank You for the gift of Your Son, Jesus. Because Jesus came to Earth, lived a perfect life, and died for us, we can be in Your family forever. That's incredible-that's the gift of grace. And You offer that gift to everybody. All we have to do is have faith in You. Help us remember that You love us no matter what- even when we mess up. Amen."