

What is the Gospel

A 5 DAY GUIDE TO WALK FAMILIES
THROUGH THE GOSPEL MESSAGE



Dear Parents,

As we dive into this Advent season, we are so excited to start it with this “What is the Gospel?” guide. We want every child to know the good news -- that God’s love has been freely given to us, but was purchased by Jesus.

One of the greatest callings and most important jobs as a parent is to teach your children God’s Word and raise them in the gospel. At Grace, we want to come along side you and equip you to do this.

This can be such an exciting opportunity but can all feel like an intimidating and daunting task. But, we truly believe that God is at work telling a story of restoration and redemption through your family. Never buy into the myth that you need to become the “right” kind of parent or have all the answers before God can use you in your children’s lives. Instead, use what God has given you to give your children a front row seat to the grace and goodness of God.

May God move through you to teach and live out the gospel for your children.

How this guide works:

Each day has a theme, explaining one aspect of the gospel message. The first page gives an overview of that theme and the second page is more interactive. Don’t feel like you have to do every element. Choose the elements that work best for your family. If you have younger kinds, there is a special Pre-school Corner just for you! By the end of this week your child will have a whole picture of the gospel!

Thank you for letting us be a part of your family’s story!

-The graceKIDS! Team

Day 1: God

WHO IS GOD?

HOW CAN WE KNOW WHO GOD IS?

We can know who God is and what He is like by reading the Bible. God speaks to us through His Word! He is the great Author of all life and He wrote the Bible so that we can **know** Him.

God tells us all about Himself and how He loves us throughout the pages of the Bible. When we read the Bible, He teaches us **His language** and changes our heart so we can love Him.

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

The Bible tells us that God is...

- **TRINITY** (Matthew 28:19)-There is One true God made up of three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Each are equally God, yet they have different jobs.
- **CREATOR** (Genesis 1:1) – God made everything out of nothing.
- **SUSTAINER** (Colossians 1:16-17) – God holds everything in the universe together in His hands.
- **ALL KNOWING** (Psalm 147:4-5) - God knows everything, anything that has happened, is happening, or will happen. There is nothing that He doesn't know.
- **ALL POWERFUL** (Jeremiah 32:27) – God can do anything! Nothing is too hard for Him.
- **TIMELESS** (Revelation 1:8) – God has no beginning and no end. He always was and always will be.
- **EVERYWHERE** (Psalm 139:7-10) – God is everywhere at all times. He sees everything and is with us wherever we go.
- **PERFECT AND HOLY** (Deuteronomy 32:4) – God is always right and never does anything wrong. He can never sin.

Day 1: God

CONTINUED

WHAT IS GOD LIKE?

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

The Bible tells us that God is...

- **GOOD** (Psalm 136:1)
- **KIND** (Psalm 117:2)
- **LOVING** (1 John 4:8)
- **GRACIOUS** (Isaiah 30:18)
- **WISE** (Romans 11:33)
- **JUST** (Deuteronomy 32:4)
- **PATIENT** (Psalm 86:15)
- **FORGIVING** (1 John 1:9)

LOOK IT UP!

Look up the following verses in the Bible.

Psalm 86:5

2 Samuel 7:22

Psalm 34:8

What do these verses tell you about who God is?

PRESCHOOL CORNER

Our God is so BIG, so Strong and so Mighty...there is Nothing that our God cannot do! God is good all the time and He loves us forever and always!

DIG DEEP

Think of one thing you know to be true about God. Grab a piece of paper and draw a picture or write a prayer praising God for how wonderful He is!

FAMILY ACTIVITY

Go on a walk as a family and talk about who God is. What does His creation tell us about who He is? Spend some time telling God how wonderful He is as you think about everything we have learned.

Day 2: Man

WE ARE MADE IN THE IMAGE OF GOD

In the beginning, God created everything out of nothing! He spoke and it was there... "Let there be light!" and BAM there was light. "Let there be animals!" and BAM there were animals. God created everything and said it was good.

Then God created Man. In this beautiful display of God's great BIG love, He didn't simply speak man into existence, but God formed man with His own hands from the clay on the ground. Then God breathed life into man and said that he was very good.

Read Genesis 1:27. We were created in the image of God to reflect Him to the world and each other. This doesn't mean that we look exactly like God or that we are just like Him, but it does mean that God made us so that we can reflect parts of who He is...kind of like a mirror.

WHY DID GOD MAKE MAN?

God made humans because He wanted to! He made us because it brings Him joy and makes Him happy. God didn't create us because He had to or because He needed a friend. God is completely happy within Himself and is never ever lonely.

God made us because He wants us to know Him! He wants to share with us everything that is good and wonderful about Him and He wants us to enjoy and love Him forever. God made us so we can have a perfect friendship with Him and He created our hearts so that we will be truly happy only in Him.

Day 2: Man

CONTINUED

LOOK IT UP!

Look up the following verses in the Bible.

Psalms 139:13-18

What do these verses tell you about who God is?

PRESCHOOL CORNER

You are God's favorite part of creation! He made you because He loves you so much and He wants to be your friend forever. God made you to show others how wonderful He is

DIG DEEP

Take a moment to look at your reflection in a mirror. Think about how God created you to reflect Him and show His love to others. In what ways does your life reflect God? In what ways does it not?

Draw a picture to God or write a prayer on separate piece of paper asking God to help you reflect Him well to others.

FAMILY ACTIVITY

Spend time together as a family thinking of one way that you can reflect the love of God to those around you this week. Maybe you can bake cookies for a neighbor or write an encouraging note to a friend? Maybe you can do a chore for your sibling or spend a whole day saying something kind to everyone you meet.

Day 3: Sin

WHAT IS SIN?

Sin is any thought or action that falls short of God's perfect ways. It is both the bad things that we do and think and also the good things that we don't do. Sin is choosing our way over God's ways and thinking we know what is best.

WE ALL HAVE SINNED!

Read Romans 3:23 together as a family.
What does this verse tell you about sin?

We all have sinned. Every single one of us. No matter how hard we may try we will never be perfect. We are sinners in both what we say and do and also in who we are.

WHAT DOES SIN DO TO OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD?

God is perfect and holy. He is without sin and never does anything wrong. God hates sin because it is everything that He is not and it destroys everything that is good. (Psalm 5:4)

Our sin separates us from God. Read Isaiah 59:2 together as a family.
What does this verse tell you?

Sin breaks our perfect friendship with God and blinds us so we can't see what is true. Sin traps us and lies to us. Sin tells us that we don't need God and makes us forget His promises. Sin is filthy and it leaves us dirty and broken.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

There is nothing we can do on our own to fix our sin problem. Our sin separates us from God and we deserve punishment for our sin.

ONLY GOD CAN FIX THE PROBLEM!

Day 3: Sin

CONTINUED

LOOK IT UP!

Look up the following verse in the Bible.

Romans 5:12

What does this verse say is the consequence of sin?

PRESCHOOL CORNER

Sin is all the bad things that we say, do and are. Sin is thinking we know what is best and not doing what God says. Sin hurts us and breaks our perfect friendship with God.

DIG DEEP

Sin breaks us and breaks our world.

Where do you see brokenness in our world?

Where do you see brokenness in your own heart?

Draw a picture or write your response on a separate piece of paper.

FAMILY ACTIVITY

Conduct an experiment to see how our sin separates us from God. Take an empty 20-ounce bottle of soda or water. Fill half of the bottle up with water and mix in a couple drops of blue food coloring. Then fill the rest of the bottle up with oil.

Ask your child what they think will happen when you shake the bottle. No matter how hard you try to shake the bottle, the oil and water will never mix.

Our sin separates us from God, just like the oil and water are separated, and there is nothing we can do on our own to fix that.

Day 4: Jesus

BUT GOD...

in His great BIG, never ending love for us did not leave us in our sin forever! No! God had a perfect plan from the beginning of time to rescue us from sin. He had a great mission to save His people and bring them back to Him. You see, our God's love is bigger than anything we can imagine. God's love is more generous than we deserve and He ALWAYS makes a way.

THE PROMISED RESCUER

God promised He would send a Great Rescuer, a Mighty Warrior, who would battle for us. This Promised Savior would fight on our behalf and defeat sin forever. This Great Rescuer is Jesus!

Read Isaiah 53:4-6. What does this verse tell us about our Great Rescuer?

THIS IS THE GOSPEL

The Gospel is the "good news" of what Jesus has done for us.
Jesus lived a perfect life, in our place, because we could not.
Jesus died on the cross, for our sins, to pay our debt.
Jesus conquered sin and death forever because He is God.
Jesus rose again giving us new life.
Jesus made a way for us to be rescued.

Below, draw a cross connecting "US" to "GOD". Jesus died on the cross making a way for us to be with God. He closed the gap that was created by our sin, so we would no longer be separated from God.

US

GOD

Day 4: Jesus

CONTINUED

LOOK IT UP!

Look up the following verses in the Bible.

- **John 3:16** - “For God so _____ the world, that He gave His only _____, that whoever _____ in Him should not perish but have eternal life.”
- **Romans 5:8** - “God shows His _____ for us in that while we were still _____, Christ died for us.”
- **Romans 6:23** - “For the wages of _____ is _____, but the _____ of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- **Ephesians 2:1, 4-9** - “For by _____ you have been saved through _____.”

What do these verses tell you about God’s rescue plan?

Can you be rescued by your good works? Can you earn God’s love?

PRESCHOOL CORNER

God loves you so much that He made a way for you to be with Him forever. God sent Jesus as your Great Rescuer and He died on the cross to to take away all of your sin.

DIG DEEP

Spend some time thinking about what Jesus has done to rescue you from sin. God loves you so much that He made a way for you to be with Him forever.

Draw a picture or write a prayer to God thanking Him for rescuing us.

FAMILY ACTIVITY

Read Psalm 103:12 together as family. Write sin on your child’s hand in washable marker. Take an alcohol wipe and wipe the marker off your child’s hand. Talk to your child about how Jesus has taken our sin away forever!

Day 5: Child of God

HOW CAN I BE SAVED?

First of all, there is **nothing** you can do on your own to be saved. Jesus did all the work for you! All you have to do is admit that you are a sinner and believe that Jesus has rescued you from sin.

- **“Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved” Acts 16:31**

- **“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”
1 John 1:9**

There is not a magical or special prayer you have to say to become a Christian. Just talk to God in your own words and tell Him that you believe in Jesus and trust Him to take away your sins.

WHO ARE WE IN JESUS?

When we believe in Jesus as our Savior, we are forever changed! God no longer looks at us and sees our sin, but instead sees Jesus and what He has done for us.

IN JESUS, WE ARE...

- **Reconciled** (2 Corinthians 5:18) – We have a perfect friendship with God.
- **Redeemed** (Colossian 1:14) – We have been rescued from sin forever.
- **Justified** (Romans 5:1) – We have been made right and good with God.
- **Adopted** (Romans 8:15) – We are forever a part of God’s family.
- **Accepted** (Ephesians 1:6) – God is pleased and delighted with us.
- **Forgiven** (Colossians 2:13) – Our sins have been taken away forever.
- **Free** (John 8:36) – We are no longer trapped in our sin.
- **Made New** (2 Corinthians 5:17) – We are given a new life when we believe in Jesus.

We are also given a new name... **“CHILD OF GOD”** (John 1:12)

Day 5: Child of God

CONTINUED

LOOK IT UP!

Look up the following verses in the Bible.

1 JOHN 3:1

COLOSSIANS 3:12

1 PETER 2:9

What do these verses tell us about who we are in Jesus?

PRESCHOOL CORNER

When we believe in Jesus, He takes away our sin and changes our heart.

DIG DEEP

Spend some time thinking about how you have been made new in Jesus. How does our life change when we believe in Jesus? Draw a picture or write your response below.

FAMILY ACTIVITY

Together as a family, write your new name on a name tag and wear it all day to remind yourself that you have been made new.

MORE ON THE NEXT PAGE

What Now?

IS THIS THE END OF THE STORY?

No way! This is just the beginning. The gospel is the good news of how Jesus rescues us from sin, but it is also a call to a life spent with Him.

God loves us with such a great BIG love and He is calling us to love Him with our whole life. He wants a relationship with us and is calling us to grow in our love for Him more and more each day.

HOW DO WE GROW IN RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD?

We grow in our perfect friendship with God by spending time with Him. When we read God's Word and spend time talking to Him through prayer, He changes our heart to love Him more. We can do this through our 4 Faith Skills:

HEAR

PRAY

TALK

LIVE

MORE ABOUT FAITH SKILLS ON THE NEXT PAGE

Faith Skills

Faith Skills are spiritual disciplines that help us know and grow closer to Christ. These skills help kids own their faith and make it personal. graceKIDS! incorporates these skills into our weekly lessons and devotions found in this journal.



HEAR

LISTEN TO GOD THROUGH HIS WORD

If you want to know someone, what's one of the first things you do? You listen. And when you listen to God, it helps you learn to trust Him more.



PRAY

TALK TO GOD

God wants to hear from you. Because when you pray, it helps you connect with God.



TALK

SHARE YOUR FAITH

As you get to know God more, you find that you want to talk about Him more. And when you talk about Him and listen to others talk about Him, it will help you see God in new ways.



LIVE

HONOR GOD WITH YOUR LIFE

The more time you spend with God, the more you will want to honor God in big and small ways.