

Transform Your Nature, Using Jesus as Your Example: *Marvelous Grace*

LESSON AT A GLANCE

Facilitator Notes:

- For Your Journey episodes can be found on the NAC USA YouTube channel, in the NAC USA mobile app, or at the link to the right.

I wonder...

- What is grace?
- Why is salvation only possible through grace?
- How can I obtain grace?
- What effect will grace have upon me?

I believe...

- Grace is a gift from God, demonstrated that He accepts human being, who are entangled in sin. (Q&A question 58)
- Redemption cannot be earned through good works. It can only come from the grace of Christ. (Q&A question 279)
- I must recognize that I am a sinner, and the only way I can be reconciled with God is through my belief in Jesus Christ. Only through His grace can stand righteous before God. (Q&A question 278)
- When I fully grasp how incredible the gift of grace is, it will create humble thankfulness in me, a desire to live a holy life demonstrated in part by my love for others, and in my good works. (Q&A questions 156, 279)

Materials:

- Bible
- Catechism Q&A
- Chart paper or whiteboard and markers
- Search Youtube for "Chris Tomlin - Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)" or use the link: <https://youtu.be/Y-4NFvI5UqW>
- For Your Journey - Episode 38, Grace <http://subspla.sh/6c3ccob>

References:

- Catechism Q&A questions 58, 156, 277, 278, 279
- Bible: Matthew 20:1-16, Luke 19:1-10, John 8:7, John 18:17, 25, 27, Acts 7:54-60

MESSAGE TO PARENTS (TO BE SENT VIA EMAIL OR TEXT)

Facilitator Notes:

- Please keep the main message intact, but feel free to add local information as necessary.

Dear Parents,
 This week the "I Wonder..." questions are about grace. What is grace, why is salvation only possible through grace, and what effect will grace have on me? This week the students listened to "Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone)" and were asked to analyze each stanza of the song. Ask your student to share the key points they learned about grace from this song. If you can, listen to the song together. As always, if you have questions about the topic, please feel free to contact your Youth Leaders.
 Your Youth Leaders

SUNDAY SERMON REFLECTIONS (10 minutes)	
Facilitator Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allow 2-3 students to share their reflections. For larger groups, vary who shares from week to week. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ What Bible verse was used for the basis of last Sunday's sermon? ➤ What were some of the main takeaways? What did you learn? ➤ So far this week, how have you applied what you learned from the sermon last Sunday? ➤ Going forward, how will you apply what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?
HOOK (15 minutes)	
Facilitator Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allow 2-3 students to share their reflections. For larger groups, vary who shares from week to week. After reading the scenario, the students may ask why Taylor was absent. Explain that due to confidentiality, the teacher cannot tell you why. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ How are you and how are you feeling today? ➤ Who would like to share their point to ponder or call to action from last week? ➤ Share the following scenario with the students and then ask them to discuss their thoughts and feelings with each other on this: <i>You've been working incredibly hard all semester. You've completed all homework assignments, projects, and studied for all tests and quizzes, and earned an A for the semester. You then learned that Taylor, who's been absent for 2 months for an unexplained reason, took the final exam, received an A on the exam, and also received an A for the semester.</i> ➤ Listen to the students' conversations and write down key responses/reactions on chart paper. ➤ These are examples of what the students might say: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Taylor did not earn the grade ○ Taylor did not do all of the work ○ Taylor was not worthy of the grade ○ Taylor knew the material, and didn't have to do all the work ○ Taylor was lucky, given a gift, teacher's pet etc. ➤ The purpose of this activity is so students can experience what grace is from God's perspective. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ God loves us, and despite what we deserve, have not earned, or lack, He is still willing to allow us to be near Him and with Him for eternity. ➤ Refer to the list of responses/reactions from the students and discuss how they differ from what the first "I believe..." statement says about grace. ➤ God, in His righteousness, could say similar things about us as the students did about Taylor. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This is why His grace is such a gift and so marvelous!

SET THE STAGE (1 minute)

Facilitator Notes:

- Preview the "I wonder" questions with the students.

I wonder...

- What is grace?
- Why is salvation only possible through grace?
- How can I obtain grace?
- What effect will grace have upon me?

LESSON (25 minutes)

Facilitator Notes:

- Have the first 4 stanzas of the song written on a separate piece of chart paper
- Search Youtube for "Chris Tomlin - Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)" or use the link: <https://youtu.be/Y-4NFv15U9w>

Lyrics – Chris Tomlin – Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)

1. *Amazing grace how sweet the sound*

That saved a wretch like me

I once was lost, but now I'm found

Was blind, but now I see

- Refer to John 8:7

Play the song "Amazing Grace – (My Chains are Gone)" and have the students follow along with the printed lyrics. After listening, divide the charts among the groups and tell them to answer the following questions about each stanza:

- Give an example from the Bible or everyday life that supports the focus of the stanza.
- How does the focus of this stanza demonstrate that grace is marvelous?

*Amazing grace how sweet the sound
 That saved a wretch like me
 I once was lost, but now I'm found
 Was blind, but now I see*

*'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
 And grace my fears relieved
 How precious did that grace appear
 The hour I first believed*

*My chains are gone I've been set free
 My God, my Savior has ransomed me
 And like a flood His mercy rains
 Unending love, Amazing grace*

*The Lord has promised good to me
 His word my hope secures
 He will my shield and portion be
 As long as life endures*

*The earth shall soon dissolve like snow
 The sun forbear to shine
 But God, Who called me here below
 Will be forever mine
 Will be forever mine
 You are forever mine*

Have the groups come back together and share their answers. Keep the "I Wonder..." questions in mind to keep the conversation focused.

- **What is the focus of stanza 1?**
 - Grace is showing favor and/or kindness regardless of what we deserve.
- **What would be an example of the stanza's meaning in the Bible and / or everyday life?**
 - Jesus said to the crowd that had gathered around the adulteress, "Whoever is without sin can throw the first stone.", and her accusers left. Jesus then said to her "Go and sin no more."
- **How does this demonstrate that grace is marvelous?**
 - Jesus came for sinners. By grace we are forgiven and encouraged to go and do better.

2. *'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear*

And grace my fears relieved

How precious did that grace appear

The hour I first believed

- Refer to Luke 19:1-10

3. *My chains are gone*

I've been set free

My God, my Savior has ransomed me

And like a flood His mercy rains

Unending love, Amazing grace

- Refer to John 18:17, 25, 27

4. *The Lord has promised good to me*

His word my hope secures

He will my shield and portion be

As long as life endures

- Refer to Acts 7:54-60

➤ **What is the focus of stanza 2?**

- Grace shows us how powerful God is, and also how much he loves us, and how much we need His grace.

➤ **What would be an example of the stanza's meaning in the Bible and / or everyday life?**

- It was through Christ that Zacchaeus recognized he was a thief and a sinner. After Christ visited him, Zacchaeus was changed, and gave back what he stole.

➤ **How does this demonstrate that grace is marvelous?**

- Jesus demonstrated grace towards Zacchaeus and did not hold his sins against him. Zacchaeus was motivated to give back what he stole (how precious did that grace appear). Only Jesus Christ can offer this grace which is what ensures our salvation. Grace motivated this man to live a better life, and to show kindness to others (he gave back four times what he stole).

➤ **What is the focus of stanza 3?**

- Grace frees us from the consequence/penalty/debt of sin (which is separation from God) and this grace is made available to us through Christ's sacrifice on the cross.

➤ **What would be an example of the stanza's meaning in the Bible and / or everyday life?**

- Peter denied Christ 3 times, and yet after Christ's resurrection, Christ never accused Peter.

➤ **How does this demonstrate that grace is marvelous?**

- God's grace is unending, it covers everything, and everyone who believes.
- After we've been freed in forgiveness, Christ doesn't bring it up again.

➤ **What is the focus of stanza 4?**

- Christ has promised an eternal future with Him and our heavenly Father.
- In this promise, we should place all of our hope and trust.
- No matter what we have to endure on this earth, if we remain focused on our future we will be able to endure, knowing in everything that He is with us.

➤ **What would be an example of the stanza's meaning in the Bible and / or everyday life?**

- Deacon Stephen, during his stoning, kept his eye on heaven and saw Christ. This gave him the strength to never waiver in his faith, despite his tragic end.

➤ **How does this demonstrate that grace is marvelous?**

- Knowing that we've received God's grace gives us hope and security when faced with adversity.

WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME? (15 minutes)

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- Emphasize how our heavenly Father looks at our striving and heart's motivation in all we do.

Wrap up the lesson with why we depend on grace for our salvation, linking it to our mission and vision and our eternal future with God.

- If time allows, For Your Journey – Episode 8, Grace
<http://subspla.sh/6c3ccob>

Close with the "I Believe..." statements

- As you review each statement, stop and check in with the group to be sure there are no misunderstandings or misconceptions.
- Allow the students to state an “I Believe...” statement for each of the “I Wonder...” questions in their own words.
- Remind the students that on their Confirmation day, they will or have already promised and committed to “remaining faithful until my end”, and that only through grace will they stand righteous before God.

I believe...

- Grace is a gift from God, demonstrated that He accepts human being, who are entangled in sin. (Q&A question 58)
- Redemption cannot be earned through good works. It can only come from the grace of Christ. (Q&A question 279)
- I must recognize that I am a sinner, and the only way I can be reconciled with God is through my belief in Jesus Christ. Only through His grace can stand righteous before God. (Q&A question 278)
- When I fully grasp how incredible the gift of grace is, it will create humble thankfulness in me, a desire to live a holy life demonstrated in part by my love for others, and in my good works. (Q&A questions 156, 279)

A Point to Ponder....

- Why do you think God arranged our acceptance into His kingdom by grace only, and not by our good works? Does this mean we don't have to do any good works?

A Call to Action...

- This week, pray for God to reveal how He's been gracious to you so far in this school year.

Weekly Reflections

What Bible verse was used for the basis of last Sunday's sermon?

What were some of the main takeaways? What did you learn?

So far this week, how have you applied what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?

Going forward, how will you apply what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?

Point to Ponder...

Call to Action...

Transform Your Nature, Using Jesus as Your Example: *Marvelous Grace*

<p>I wonder...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ What is grace? ➤ Why is salvation only possible through grace? ➤ How can I obtain grace? ➤ What effect will grace have upon me? 	<p>I believe...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Grace is a gift from God, demonstrated that He accepts human being, who are entangled in sin. (Q&A question 58) ➤ Redemption cannot be earned through good works. It can only come from the grace of Christ. (Q&A question 279) ➤ I must recognize that I am a sinner, and the only way I can be reconciled with God is through my belief in Jesus Christ. Only through His grace can stand righteous before God. (Q&A question 278) ➤ When I fully grasp how incredible the gift of grace is, it will create humble thankfulness in me, a desire to live a holy life demonstrated in part by my love for others, and in my good works. (Q&A questions 156, 279)
<p>References: Catechism Q&A questions 58, 156, 277-279; Matthew 20:1-16, Luke 19:1-10, John 8:7, John 18:17, 25, 27, Acts 7:54-60</p>	

Read and listen to “Amazing Grace (My chains are gone)” and then answer these questions for the first 4 stanzas: What is an example from the Bible or everyday life that supports the focus of the stanza? How does this demonstrate that grace is marvelous?

*Amazing grace how sweet the sound
 That saved a wretch like me
 I once was lost, but now I'm found
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 He will my shield and portion be
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Stanza 1:

Stanza 2:

Stanza 3:

Stanza 4:

Stanza 5:

Point to Ponder: Why do you think God arranged our acceptance into His kingdom by grace only, and not by our good works? Does this mean we don't have to do any good works?

Call to Action: This week, pray for God to reveal how He's been gracious to you so far this school year.