OPTION 1: HIGH JUMP

WHAT YOU’LL NEED: Masking tape that will not mark the ceiling; a length of yarn cut to the appropriate length for the activity (see Leader Prep below); a gift bag; a small, inexpensive prize for each child (see Leader Prep below for ideas)

LEADER PREP: Cut a length of yarn that you can tape and hang from the ceiling or a doorway high enough that none of your T&T kids can jump and touch the yarn but low enough that you or another leader in your club can jump and still touch the yarn. Fill a gift bag with prizes for children. It’s best to award the same prize to everyone to avoid conflicts or comparisons. Possible prize ideas are single-serving snacks, candy, small toys, or school supplies.

ACTIVITY:

STEP 1: Instruct all the kids to line up below the yarn hanging from the ceiling or doorway. Challenge the kids to jump one at a time to try to touch the yarn. Display the gift bag as a prize for the person who can complete the task.

STEP 2: After all the kids have tried and failed, allow each child a second opportunity to jump and touch the yarn. After all the kids have attempted to touch the yarn a second time, you or another leader who can succeed at the challenge should jump and touch the yarn. You or the leader who succeeded should then share the prizes with all the kids in Large Group Time even though the kids did not succeed in the jumping challenge.

STEP 3: Explain to the group that this activity is an illustration of grace. From their Start Zone sections, they should remember that grace is giving someone something good that he or she doesn’t deserve. Discuss together how you showed grace to the all the kids during this activity (e.g., you gave them a second chance to get a prize and still gave prizes even though they didn’t succeed during the challenge). Tell them that God showed us great grace when He sent Jesus to earth! Through Jesus He gave us some amazingly good gifts that we could never deserve.

STEP 4: Open the lesson in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to help you and the kids understand the grace offered to you through Jesus. Transition to main lesson.
3.6 – JESUS SHOWED GRACE TO OTHERS: MAIN LESSON (10 MINUTES)

C. Remember, grace is giving somebody something good that he or she doesn’t deserve. God gave the people in Corinth the good gifts of forgiveness and eternal life when they trusted in Christ. They did not deserve or earn the good gifts they received; God gave these gifts to them for free because of Jesus. He gives us these same gifts when we trust Christ as Savior.

STEP 2: Say that when Jesus lived on earth, He showed grace to others, often to people who were looked down upon because everybody thought of them as the worst sinners. Ask the leader who volunteered to present the monologue at this time. At each appropriate point in the monologue, yell, “Freeze!” and ask the question pertaining to that point in the monologue. Give one or two kids a chance to respond. When you are done with the question and answer time, yell, “Action” to cue the character to continue.

STEP 3: At the end of the monologue, let various kids share their ideas on how they think the story would have been different if Jesus did not show grace to that individual.

STEP 4: Discuss with the group how we are like that character. We have sinned; we don’t deserve grace. Instead, we deserve the punishment of death for our sin; there is NOTHING we could do to save ourselves from that punishment or be good enough to have a relationship with a holy God, who is perfectly good and sinless.

Share the following key concepts:

A. God offers grace to us because Jesus, God’s Son, took the punishment we deserve for our sin when He died on the cross for us. The grace God offers to us is forgiveness from sin.

B. We have a choice to accept God’s gift of grace. We accept the gift by trusting that Jesus Christ died for our sin and rose again. If we trust Christ as our Savior, we will be forgiven for all our sin and become holy in God’s sight. That means that God will call us holy like Him. In God’s eyes we will be perfectly good, just like Jesus.

C. We can now have a relationship with God because Christ has forgiven our sin and made us holy in God’s sight. But even after we trust in Jesus as Savior, we will still sin because we are human. But we can know that every sin we have ever done or will do is already forgiven because of what Christ did for us.

D. We not only receive forgiveness from sin, but we also receive the free gift of eternal life. Ask the kids if they remember the definition of eternal life from the discussion about the memory verses.
**FREEZE FRAME CHARACTER**

**MONOLOGUE FOR ZACCHAEUS (LUKE 19:1-10)**

Hi!

My name is Zacchaeus, but you can call me Zach. Man, have I got some news for you!

See, I used to have an important job as a tax collector. Sure, people owed money, but … (whispers to the audience) I always charged more than they owed. I turned in the money they owed, and kept the rest for myself.

**LEADER** yells “CUT!” ZACCHAEUS hangs his head and freezes.

**LEADER:** Why did Zacchaeus NOT deserve grace? (Waits for responses. Possible answers: he was a tax collector who stole money from the people, he was greedy for more money, he was a sinner)

**LEADER** yells “Action” to cue ZACCHAEUS to continue.

One day I heard the crowd murmur, “Jesus is coming!”

Jesus is coming! Boy, rumors were flying about Him! Some people said that He could cast out demons and heal the sick. Others said He could make the lame walk and the blind see. I ran to the road to catch a glimpse of this man. Maybe He would heal someone from our town!

Buuut … there was a problem. See, I’m a little … on the short side. And by the time I made it to the main road in the city, the crowds were so thick that I couldn’t see anything.

I noticed a large tree nearby, and the next thing I knew I had the best view in the crowd from a branch that hung near the side of the road.

Soon I saw this Jesus. He walked closer and closer. He looked like a normal man to me, but as soon as He came closer, He stopped.

He looked right up at me. “Zacchaeus, hurry and come down. I must stay at your house today,” He said.

I about fell right out of the tree. This man — Jesus — knew my name! And not only that, He invited Himself over to my house.

Now, you’ve got to understand. Because of my job, not many people like me. Basically, I don’t have friends. I have a lot of money and a nice home, but nobody EVER wants to come to MY house. Except for Jesus.

**LEADER** yells “CUT!” ZACCHAEUS hangs his head and freezes.

**LEADER:** What did Jesus do to show grace to the person? (Wait for responses. Possible answers: Jesus showed compassion to Zacchaeus and even went to his home — something that the rest of the people would not do because they thought it was wrong to eat with and spend time with sinners like Zacchaeus. Jesus offered salvation to him.)

**LEADER** yells “Action” to cue ZACCHAEUS to continue.

That day I learned that He was not just another man. He did many great and wonderful and amazing things but best of all, He loved me and offered me grace I didn’t deserve. He offered me a way to have a relationship with God. Me. A tax collector and a sinner. I didn’t deserve to have Jesus notice me and show me love. But I’m so glad He did.
FREEZE FRAME CHARACTER

MONOLOGUE FOR THE SINFUL WOMAN
(Luke 7:36-50)

Hi, I am known in my city as a sinner. Some people don’t even call me by my name. Some people just refer to me as a sinner. They don’t want to have anything to do with me.

I have done many, many things that are not good, and I am not proud of the choices I have made. I am ashamed of the sins that I have done.

LEADER yells “CUT!” WOMAN hangs her head and freezes.

LEADER: Why did this woman NOT deserve grace? (Wait for responses. Possible answers: she had done many bad things, everyone in the city knew that she was a sinner, she had chosen to disobey God by living a sinful life.)

LEADER yells “Action” to cue the WOMAN to continue.

One day I heard that Jesus was coming to my town. Jesus! The one who had healed the sick and made the lame walk. The one who showed grace and mercy to sinners. Could He really care about me?! I dared to hope. Maybe, just maybe, Jesus could be the one who could help me. I heard from others around town that Jesus was going to the home of a Pharisee, one of the religious leaders of our day.

The Pharisees did not like me. To them, I was a filthy woman who had openly sinned. I knew that I was taking a huge chance going to the home of one of these leaders, but I just had to see Jesus.

I brought a bottle of special ointment. I quietly entered the home of the Pharisee and saw Jesus, reclining at the table.

I was unworthy to be in His presence. I was a sinner. I began to weep and fell at His feet. I took the bottle of ointment and carefully poured it out on His feet. I used my tears and my hair to wipe them.

The Pharisee looked at me with disgust. But Jesus told him that my sins were forgiven because of the great love that I showed to Jesus.

Could it be?? Could Jesus show me mercy and grace instead of giving me the punishment I deserve?! Could He truly forgive me for all the horrible sins I had committed?

Jesus turned to me and said, “Your sins are forgiven.”

LEADER yells “CUT!” WOMAN hangs her head and freezes.

LEADER: What did Jesus do to show grace to the person? (Wait for responses. Possible answers: Jesus had compassion on her and let her touch His feet. He recognized her welcoming and loving actions and praised her for them in front of others. He forgave her and saved her from her sins.)

LEADER yells “Action” to cue WOMAN to continue.

Immediately, my soul was free. I knew then that this Jesus was the true Messiah. He was my Savior. He told me that it was my faith that saved me from my sin. My faith in Jesus freed me from the punishment of my sin. I was able to go in peace, knowing that Jesus offered grace to me, a sinful woman.
3.6 – JESUS SHOWED GRACE TO OTHERS: LESSON OPENER (5 MINUTES)

OPTION 2: GIVING GRACE

WHAT YOU’LL NEED: A small gift bag; two small, age-appropriate prizes (see the list below for ideas)

LEADER PREP: Purchase two of the same inexpensive prizes that your T&T kids would like (e.g., a gift card to a fast-food restaurant, a large candy bar, soda, gum, a book)

STEP 1: Hold up the gift bag and tell the kids the bag contains a prize. Ask for three volunteers to demonstrate an on-the-spot skill they can do to try to earn the prize. (Skills might include making a funny and unusual noise, mimicking a famous character, singing a song, reciting a passage of Scripture, or a poem.)

STEP 2: Give each volunteer up to two minutes to complete the task. After the third volunteer has performed, have the class choose the winner of the prize by clapping the loudest. Praise the winner, give him or her a prize and have the volunteers be seated. Include a task that only a leader can do well, but have that leader give his or her prize to a random child.

STEP 3: Explain the definition of grace (giving someone something good that he or she doesn’t deserve) and discuss how grace was demonstrated in the activity.

STEP 4: Open the lesson in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to guide you and the kids into God’s truth through the lesson. Transition to main lesson.
3.6 – JESUS SHOWED GRACE TO OTHERS: MAIN LESSON (10 MINUTES)

OPTION 2: GIVING GRACE

WHAT YOU’LL NEED: Bible bookmarked to Mark 10:17-27 and 1 Corinthians 1:3-4, Giving Grace handout (Resource Bundle), Bibles for the kids, pens or pencils, five posters or sheets of paper, markers

LEADER PREP: Print out and copy the Giving Grace handout, one per child. Using large letters, write a different key word from the memory verse on each of the five posters or sheets of paper. Here are the words to write: grace, peace, thanks, grace, and given. These sheets will be used during the Bible verse review portion of the lesson.

STEP 1: Read aloud 1 Corinthians 1:3-4 from your Bible. Then ask five kids to stand in front of the room and give each of them a paper containing a key word from the verse. Read the verses again and ask each of the five kids to hold up his or her word as it is read. Read the verses a few more times in this way and encourage everyone to try to say the verse with you as you read it and the papers are lifted. Explain that a Christian missionary named Paul wrote these verses to a group of people living in Corinth who had trusted Jesus as their Savior.

Share the following key concepts:
A. They had been given grace from God when they trusted Jesus as their Savior. God loved them and forgave their sin, even though they did not deserve this. Instead, like all of us, they deserved death as a punishment for their sin.
B. God also gave them eternal life. Eternal life is life forever with God. Their eternal life of knowing God and having a relationship with Him started right when they trusted Christ. They also knew that after they died, they would go to heaven to live forever with God.
C. Remember, grace is giving someone something good that he or she doesn’t deserve. God gave the people in Corinth the good gifts of forgiveness and eternal life when they trusted in Christ. They did not deserve or earn the good gifts they received; God gave these gifts to them for free because of Jesus. He gives us these same gifts when we trust Christ as Savior.
D. Explain to the kids that while Jesus was alive on earth, He offered grace and salvation to many people.

STEP 2: Divide the kids into two groups and distribute copies of the Giving Grace handout to each child. If you have a larger club, divide into several groups of about three to five kids. Assign one of the following passages to each group: Mark 2:1-12, Mark 10:46-52. (You could also assign Luke 19:1-10 and Luke 7:36-50.) Give the kids three or four minutes to complete the Giving Grace handout.

Open your Bible and read Mark 10:17-27 to the group.

Summary of Mark 10:17-27
A. The rich young man wanted to know what he could do to inherit eternal life. This man believed if he worked hard enough to keep the commands in the Bible that he might be good enough or able to do enough to earn eternal life.
B. Jesus loved this young man. But Jesus knew the young man loved his money more than God. It is a sin to love money more than God. Jesus wanted to make the young man aware of this sin in his life, so Jesus told the man to sell all he had and give it to the poor and to follow Him. The ONLY WAY the young man could have eternal life was to trust in Jesus alone as Savior. He could never be perfect enough to keep all of God’s commands. He had sinned and He needed Jesus to save Him from his sin of loving money more than God. Jesus’ offer of love and of grace was extended to this man when Jesus said, “Follow Me.”

In this passage, the young man walked away sorrowful. We do not know if this young man ever chose to accept God’s gift of grace through Jesus alone.

Share these key concepts:
A. God’s offer of grace extends to the T&T kids too. Jesus offers grace to them through His death on the cross.
B. If they choose to accept Jesus as Savior, they receive God’s gifts of grace: forgiveness of sin and eternal life.
C. God will no longer view them as sinners but as children of God (John 1:12) who are holy in His sight.
D. They will also receive eternal life, which is life forever with God.

STEP 3: Give kids an opportunity to talk to a leader if they would like to learn how they can accept God’s gift of grace through Jesus.
GIVING GRACE

1. Identify and briefly describe the people in this passage.

2. How did Jesus offer them grace?

3. How did the people respond to Jesus’ offer of grace?
GIVING GRACE

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