MISSION

GRACE IN ACTION

LIVING BY GRACE UNIT RESOURCES
OPTION 1: CONSTRUCTION HELPERS

WHAT YOU’LL NEED: Spaghetti noodles, miniature marshmallows, paper plates, yardstick, individually wrapped candy

LEADER PREP: Purchase two boxes of dry spaghetti noodles, two bags of miniature marshmallows, paper plates, and individually wrapped candy. Divide the two boxes of spaghetti noodles evenly onto four paper plates. Divide the two bags of marshmallows evenly onto four paper plates. (Note: These supplies are enough for four groups. If you have a large T&T club, prepare for extra groups.)

ACTIVITY:

STEP 1: Divide kids into groups of two or three. Give each group a plate of dry spaghetti noodles and a plate of marshmallows.

STEP 2: At your signal, have groups work together to build a tower using only the spaghetti noodles and the marshmallows.

STEP 3: After two minutes, have kids stop building. Use the yardstick to measure the height of each tower, and give candy to each member of the group that built the tallest tower.

STEP 4: Ask: “How did having other group members make building the tower easier?” (Possible answers: the team was able to work together; there were different people to offer suggestions; each person was able to help in a special way.)

STEP 5: Tell kids that there will be many times in their lives in which they will be asked to help other people. Explain that in today’s lesson, they will learn how God wants Christians to learn to work together and help each other, and also help others who aren’t Christians too.

STEP 6: Open in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to help you and your T&T kids recognize the importance of being willing and cheerful helpers. Transition to main lesson.
OPTION 1: UNIQUE HELPERS

WHAT YOU’LL NEED: Bible bookmarked to Galatians 6:9-10 and Colossians 3:13, Unique Helpers handout (Resource Bundle), pens or pencils, Bibles for the kids, (Optional: Key Terms handout [Resource Bundle])

LEADER PREP: Print out copies of the Unique Helpers handout, one copy per kid. As an option, you may print out the term Grace and its definition from the Key Terms handout.

ACTIVITY:

STEP 1: Share these key concepts:

A. (If desired, display the term Grace and its definition.) Grace is giving somebody something good that he or she doesn’t deserve. Remind kids that we are all sinners and don’t deserve anything from God, but He chooses to give us grace.

B. Ask kids to name some of the good things we have received because of God’s grace. Add some of these things to their list if they miss them: forgiveness, peace, love, the Holy Spirit, righteousness, and eternal life. Once we realize all we have because of grace, we should be very thankful to God for giving it to us.

C. Explain that as a result of our thankfulness for God’s gifts of grace, we need to follow the words of Colossians 3:13: Bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

STEP 2: Distribute a copy of the Unique Helpers handout and a pen or pencil to each kid. Divide kids into pairs or groups, give groups a Bible, and assign each pair or group a section of the handout. Give kids three minutes to study the verses on their handouts and identify the need, the helper, and the way in which the person helped.

STEP 3: Have each group present their findings. Encourage other kids to fill in the information on their handouts as they listen to the other groups. After all the pairs or groups have presented their information, share these key concepts:

A. People have many different needs. They might need money, food, a place to stay or just someone to tell them where to go for help.

B. God can use ANYONE as a helper! You are never too young or too old to help meet the needs of others. You just need to give what you are able to give and be willing to serve God by helping others.

STEP 4: Open your Bible and read Galatians 6:9-10 aloud once. Then read the verses a second time, breaking the verses into smaller phrases and letting kids repeat each phrase after you. Explain to kids that Paul wrote these verses to the Christians in Galatia to encourage them. Discuss the meaning of the verses and share these key concepts:

A. Paul encouraged the believers to keep doing good things for others. Weary means tired or worn out. It would have been easy for them to grow tired or worn out while they were serving others.

B. In due season means the time when Christ comes back to take all Christians to heaven. Paul reminded them that when Christ comes back, they will reap, or receive rewards for, the good things that they have done while they lived on earth.

C. The word household is another way of saying family. When we trust Jesus as Savior we become a member of a gigantic family, made up of all the people all over the world who have trusted in Jesus as Savior. This family, or household of faith, is your Christian family, and it includes the Christians in your church and T&T and the Christians who are in churches all over the world that you don’t even know. (Don’t worry; you are still a part of the family who lives with you too! You have TWO families.)

D. Paul wanted the believers to look for ways to do good to everyone, but especially to the people in their Christian family. The reason we should put our Christian family first is so the rest of the people who don’t know Christ can see how much we love and take care of each other. They will know we are followers of Christ if we love each other (John 13:34), because Christ is our example of perfect love. Hopefully, they will want to know Christ too!

E. Another reason to put our Christian family first is because God has commanded Christians to work together to tell the world the good news about Jesus. Each member of the family of God needs to work hard and do his or her part in this. If some people in our family are in trouble or in need, they can’t work at their best. We need to help everyone in our Christian family be able to work at their best!
4.6 – LIVING BY GRACE: MAIN LESSON (10 MINUTES)

STEP 5: If you did the building activity as an opener, you can refer back to it as an illustration here. If not, skip this step. In your own words, say: “Remember when we built towers with noodles and marshmallows? Each member of the group had to do his or her part to help build the tower. Now imagine if one member of the group had been blindfolded and another one had her hands tied behind her back. They wouldn’t be able to work at their best, and it would be harder to build the tower. The first thing to do is to help your group members fix their problems so they can work at their best. It’s that way with our Christian family too. We have to help each other work at our best.”

Notes:
SECTION 1
Read Galatians 4:13-16 and answer the following questions.
1. What was the need in these verses?
2. Who was the helper or helpers?
3. How did that person or (people) help meet the need?

SECTION 2
Read Acts 11:27-30 and answer the following questions.
1. What was the need in these verses?
2. Who was the helper or helpers?
3. How did that person or (people) help meet the need?

SECTION 3
Read 2 Kings 4:8-10 and answer the following questions.
1. What was the need in these verses?
2. Who was the helper or helpers?
3. How did that person or (people) help meet the need?

SECTION 4
Read 2 Kings 5:2-5 and answer the following questions.
1. What was the need in these verses?
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OPTION 2: A HELPLESS BABY

WHAT YOU’LL NEED: Pictures or video of a newborn baby; computer and digital projector (optional)

LEADER PREP: Gather pictures or video of a newborn baby from your family albums or from a friend with young children, or search online for pictures and videos of newborns. (Optional: project the pictures and video on a screen or bare wall in the classroom.)

STEP 1: Present the pictures and video of a newborn baby. Ask any kids with younger siblings or with close relatives who have a baby to describe a newborn baby. (Possible descriptions might include they need to be held or carried; you have to take care of their needs for food and diaper changes; they cry when they need something.)

Share these key concepts:

A. Newborns can’t do anything for themselves; they are helpless! They rely completely on those who love them to take care of them.

B. The Bible says that before we trust in Jesus Christ for our salvation, we are helpless spiritually. That means we can’t do anything to save ourselves from our sin.

C. Jesus died for us when we were weak sinners who could not stop sinning. There was no hope for us on our own, but God loved us and did something good for us. He sent Jesus to help us!

D. Because God helped us when we were helpless, we should be willing to help others!

STEP 2: Explain that in today’s lesson, kids will learn how Jesus gives us grace to follow His example and help others.

STEP 3: Open in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to help you and your T&T kids recognize the importance of being willing and cheerful helpers. Transition to main lesson.
4.6 – GRACE IN ACTION: MAIN LESSON (10 MINUTES)

OPTION 2: SERVICE CHARADES

WHAT YOU’LL NEED: Bible bookmarked to Galatians 6:9-10, a copy of the Service Charades handout (Resource Bundle), scissors, a jar or small container, props and costumes (optional), a large container (optional)

LEADER PREP: Print out a copy of the Service Charades handout. Cut apart the charades and place them in a small container. (Optional: gather various props and costumes [e.g., backpack, a Bible, a phone, wrapped snack, coats, pretend or real money, hats, purses, clip-on ties, canned goods and a grocery bag, a cane or a walker, wigs, a rake]. Place all the props and costumes in a large container.)

STEP 1: Open your Bible and read Galatians 6:9-10 aloud once. Then read the verses a second time, breaking the verses into smaller phrases and letting kids repeat each phrase after you. Explain to kids that Paul wrote these verses to the Christians in Galatia to encourage them. Discuss the meaning of the verses and share these key concepts:

A. Paul encouraged the believers to keep doing good things for others. Weary means tired or worn out. It would have been easy for them to grow tired or worn out while they were serving others.

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C. The word household is another way of saying family. When we trust Jesus as Savior we become a member of a gigantic family, made up of all the people all over the world who have trusted in Jesus as Savior. This family, or household of faith, is your Christian family, and it includes the Christians in your church and T&T and the Christians who are in churches all over the world that you don’t even know. (Don’t worry; you are still a part of the family who lives with you too! You have TWO families.)

D. Paul wanted the believers to look for ways to do good to everyone, but especially to the people in their Christian family. The reason we should put our Christian family first is so the rest of the people who don’t know Christ can see how much we love and take care of each other. They will know we are followers of Christ if we love each other (John 13:34), because Christ is our example of perfect love. Hopefully, they will want to know Christ too!

E. Another reason to put our Christian family first is because God has commanded Christians to work together to tell the world the good news about Jesus. Each member of the family of God needs to work hard and do his or her part in this. If some people in our family are in trouble or in need, they can’t work at their best. We need to help everyone in our Christian family be able to work at their best!

STEP 2: Divide kids into pairs or groups. Have one group choose a charade from the container. Give that group one minute to prepare their charade, and then give them 30 seconds to present their charade, using props if available and desired. Encourage the kids and leaders who are watching to guess the charade.

STEP 3: After each charade talk about who needed help, what help he or she needed, who gave the help, and how he or she helped. You could also discuss alternative ways to help besides the one acted out.

Continue the activity until each pair or group has presented their charades.

Share these key concepts:

A. People have many different needs. They might need help with a simple task, like raking leaves or setting up chairs or getting a snack for a child. They might just need encouragement, such as a smile or a card or a visit. They may have bigger needs, like money to buy food or a place to stay or help as they recover from a serious illness.

B. God can use ANYONE as a helper! You are never too young or too old to help meet the needs of others. You just need to give what you are able to give and be willing to serve God by helping others.

C. Remind kids that it is not always easy to serve. We may get tired of helping others, just like our verse says, or we may think we are too busy to help others. Sometimes we may just feel selfish and would rather buy something for ourselves or do something fun instead.
4.6 – GRACE IN ACTION: MAIN LESSON (10 MINUTES)

D. We must remember that after we trust Jesus as Savior, God sees us as righteous, even though we still sin. Because of God’s grace, He gave us the Holy Spirit to help us resist sin and become more like Jesus.

E. As we read our Bible, pray, and spend time with other Christians, the Holy Spirit will help us love and obey God and make the choices He wants us to make. The Holy Spirit will give us the desire and strength to do good things, like serve others, and He will show us ways that we can serve.

STEP 4: Close the lesson in prayer, thanking God for the gift of the Holy Spirit who gives us grace to help others.

Notes:
**SERVICE CHARADES**

You and your dad are walking through the grocery store. You notice a woman pushing a cart with a little boy in it and one of his shoes just fell off onto the floor. Neither the woman nor the little boy notices. How can you be a servant to the woman and the little boy?

You and your friends are walking down the hall at your school. You notice a bully push a student down. How can you serve that student?

There is an elderly woman who is having some trouble walking into church behind your family. How can you help her?

Your mom is on the phone and your little brother is upset and keeps begging her for a snack. How can you help your mom and your little brother?

A family in your church doesn’t have enough money to buy groceries this week because the father of the family lost his job. How can your family help?

You and your family get to Awana early. Your leader is running late, and you notice the chairs are not set up for Large Group Time. How can you be a servant to your Awana leader?

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A missionary is visiting your church to share about the work she is doing to share the gospel in another country. She doesn’t have enough money to stay at a hotel. How can your family help her?

You learned a lot from your pastor’s message last Sunday, and you are thankful for all he does for your church. How can you be a helper to your pastor?

A girl from your T&T club broke her leg last week, and she is in the hospital. How can you help her?

Many new people come to your church each week and they often don’t know anyone and don’t know where to go in the church building. How can you serve them?

A man in your church uses a wheelchair to get around. He lives alone and he is not able to rake the leaves in his yard. How could you serve him?
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