

SAVED BY GRACE

FOCUS

Salvation is by grace alone.
It's a free gift from God.

TODAY'S TIP

Children are motivated by praise.
Praise your students for their successes and efforts.

SUPPLIES NEEDED

- Scissors
- Black elastic cord (enough for 1 per student)
- Letter beads to spell "saved by grace" for each student
- Colored beads - enough to complete each bracelet

1 WELCOME & SINGING

Welcome guests & take attendance.

- Make announcements
- Sing songs relating to story/topic.
- Take prayer requests & pray.

2 LET US GO TO THE STORY

Ask students, "When you receive gifts

"When someone gives you a gift what do you say?" *Thank you.*

"When receiving a gift how have you ever said, 'How much do I owe you?'"

"When someone gives us a very special gift, we might want to do something nice for the giver, to show how much we appreciate the gift."

3 STUDENT LESSON

We become Christians through "God's unmerited grace." These two words are really not hard to understand. The word "grace" means God's favor. The word "unmerited" means that we don't deserve God's favor at all. Salvation is given to us as a **free gift** from God. We cannot do anything good enough to earn or deserve it ourselves. Because we are **thankful** for God's free gift of salvation, we will want to help and serve others to show our gratitude to God for His wonderful gift of grace! But these acts **never** bring salvation; they are only the **result** of receiving it! We call these acts good **works**.

When someone gives you a gift, do you say, "That's very nice---now how much do I owe you?" No. The right thing to say is "Thank You." But the problem is that Christians often feel as though they must **work their way** to win God's approval. Because our salvation and even our faith are **gifts** from God, we should respond with gratitude, praise and joy. Any works we do are out of a grateful heart.

A person can get into a car and use a key to try to start it. But the car will never start if you are using the wrong key! In the same way, regular church attendance and many prayers and acts of kindness to others are not the right vehicles to get to heaven. You can be saved from your sins and receive eternal life **only through the grace and favor of Jesus by telling Him you're sorry for your sins and asking Him to take them away.**

PRAYER: This is the perfect time for students to thank God for His wonderful gift of salvation! Thank Him also that it is a **free** gift, because there is no way any person could earn it.

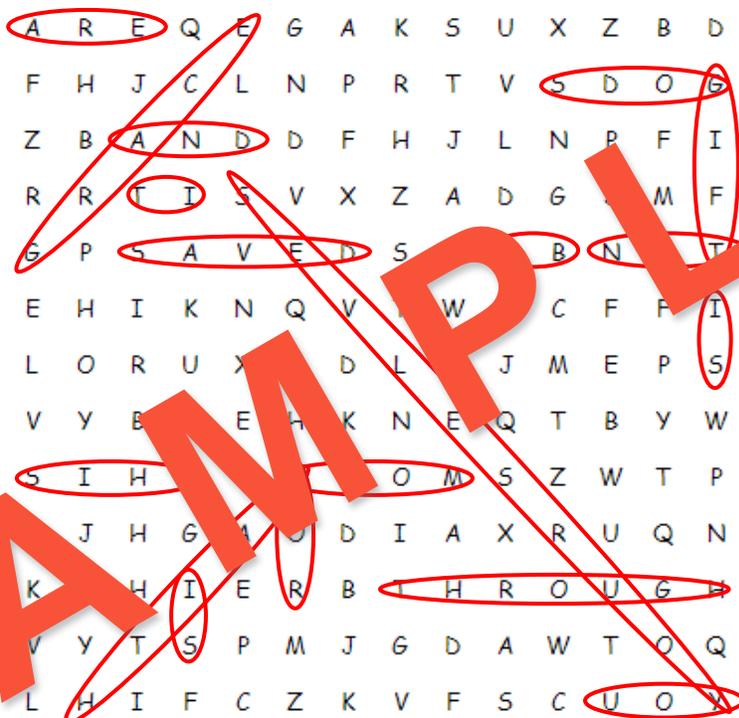
4 MEMORY VERSE

For you are saved by grace through faith,
and this is not from yourselves; it is God's gift -
not from works, so that no one can boast.

Ephesians 2:8-9

5 SOMETHING TO DO

In the word puzzle below, circle all the words in your memory verse (Ephesians 2:8). There are 18 words in all.
The word "is" will be circled two separate times.



Match the following words with the right definitions. Place the number of each word in front of the correct definition.

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|----------|--|
| 1. Grace | 3 Believing in what you can't see. |
| 2. Saved | 1 God's favor that we don't deserve. |
| 3. Faith | 2 Brought into right relationship with God. |
| 4. Gift | 5 Good deeds we can do to show our thanksgiving to God. |
| 5. Works | 4 Something we receive without paying for. |

6 CRAFT - Saved By Grace Bracelet

Using black elastic cord, measure the amount to go around each of the students wrists, plus about 2 inches more for tying. Place letter beads on the cord to spell the words, "saved by grace." Between each word should be a bead and put beads on each end of the cord, so the words are in the middle. These beads can be the color of their choice. When enough beads have been placed on the cord to fill the bracelet, leaving 1" at each end for knotting, the bracelet is complete. Knot the two ends together. After making sure the knot is secure, put a drop of glue on the knot to keep it from coming loose and cut off the extra cord. These bracelets serve as a reminder that God's salvation is a free gift to us.