

God's Grace

KEY VERSES

Romans 5:8, John 3:16,
Ephesians 2:8-9

KEY THEMES

God's eternal plan of grace revealed
through Christ's death on the cross
Eternal life through faith in Christ

TEACHING NOTES

Plan of salvation

God has a good, purposeful plan of reconciliation and redemption for all mankind through faith in the finished work of Christ on the cross

The centerpiece of all history

Our problem (Romans 3:23)

But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.

– Romans 5:8

God's love

For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. – John 3:16

God's solution (Romans 6:23 & Romans 3:25-26)

God's gift: salvation, by grace through faith

God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. – Ephesians 2:8-9

Faith (Romans 5:1-2)

New and eternal life (Titus 3:4-7)

Lesson Objective:

To understand that salvation comes through faith in the death of Jesus Christ and that His death was sufficient payment for all our sins.

PERSONAL STUDY

Each session, we will provide you with a guide for personal study to reinforce what has been taught and help you take steps to grow spiritually. Growing spiritually requires you to spend time alone with God and apply His truth to your life. We highly encourage you to make room in your weekly schedule for this time with God and His Word.

Prepare your heart and mind

Begin your time with God by asking Him to quiet your heart and mind. Ask Him to help you focus on Him, His Word, and what He wants to share with you today.

Read John 3:16

For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. – John 3:16

This is one of the most popular Bible verses. Many people, Christian or not, know it. And there's a good reason for that. What this verse summarizes is the beautiful picture of God's grace for all. **We are offered salvation from an eternity in hell** by a loving God who paid for the sins of all humanity, by the death of His son Jesus Christ.

Often when reflecting on this verse it's natural to think about what it means for the whole world. While this is true, it is important to look at this verse personally as well.

*For this is how God loved **me**: He gave his one and only Son, so that through believing in him I will not perish but have eternal life.*

Imagine reading in the newspaper that anyone who showed up at their local post office could collect a thousand dollars with no questions asked. You would have to believe it to be true to be motivated to get in the car and go check it out. While the thousand dollars is there and is freely available to all, each person must choose to receive it. The same is true with the free gift of God's grace. It is there and free to all, but it must be received by faith.

Read the following passage of scripture:

God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God.

Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.

– Ephesians 2:8-9

Re-read the passage above and circle what God is offering us.

As you read the passage again, underline your role in the process.

Read the passage one more time and put a box around what doesn't earn our salvation.

Think about what God has done by His grace. It's simply by believing Him for our salvation that we are saved. **There's nothing you can do to make God love you any more or any less.**



Read Romans 5:8 and 6:23

It's humbling to think about the great love and mercy God has shown us by making a way for us to be made right with Him when we did nothing to deserve it.

Think about a time that you were given something you wanted or needed, with "no strings attached." How did it feel to receive this gift? How did you respond?

When have you been tempted to believe God loved you less or more because of something you did?

There's nothing we can do to make God love us any more or any less. God's love is completely demonstrated by what Jesus did for us on the cross. Our only role is to respond in faith to God's free gift of grace.



Read Romans 5:1-2

What privileges of placing our faith in Christ are mentioned in these verses?

Prayer time

God's love is proved in Jesus' willingness to die on the cross for you. Your only role is to believe God and receive the free gift of grace. Spend some time with God talking over the scripture you have read, asking Him to increase your understanding of His amazing grace.