



Way Truth Life

A Children's Ministry
Resource

TEACHING OUTLINES

HOW TO USE THIS RESOURCE

These teaching outlines are meant to help you plan your children's church services. In addition to providing the week's theme, the scripture, and the supplies needed, each outline has four main sections, which you can adapt to your context to get the most out of your Way, Truth, Life teaching experience.

ENGAGE

This section offers a suggestion for engaging children in a simple game or object lesson to get them ready to receive the week's message.

EXPLORE

This section introduces the weekly theme and offers suggestions for how to begin to talk about the weekly topic with kids.

EXPAND

This section is where the children's sermon, or message, will be given. There's a write-up with suggested talking points and things to cover, but you have complete flexibility to adapt the material to your context.

EXPRESS

This section offers children the chance to respond to the week's message with creative games, crafts, or discussion.

HANDOUTS

There are two printable handouts that go with Week 2 to use during the *Engage* and *Express* sections.

Week 1:

Amazing Grace

Scripture: *John 1:35-42*

Supplies Needed

- Bible
- Prizes (both good and bad)
- 3 large boxes
- White board, chalkboard, or large sheet of paper
- Writing utensils (dry erase markers, chalk, colored pencils, crayons, markers)

Engage

The Grace Game:

Put various prizes (both good and bad prizes) in three different boxes. Label each box with a number—1, 2, or 3. Be sure to keep the contents of the boxes hidden. Station 1 or 2 volunteers behind the boxes to hand out prizes.

Choose 1 player to come up and play the game. Give the player the option to choose between the numbers 1, 2, or 3. After they choose a number, have a volunteer give a prize from that box. The player is then given a choice to keep the prize they received or they can accept grace and choose another number. The game is over after they choose a second time (or if they choose to keep their first prize). Play this with a few different children and allow them to see grace at work.

Possible prizes:

Pacifier, baby food, penny, bracelet, bubble gum, candy bar, squirt gun, t-shirt, canned sardines, nerf football, glittery journal, jump rope, bubbles, etc.

Explore

SAY: *The game we just played is based on something called **Grace**. Can someone tell me what grace is? (Answers will vary, but help to guide them with this definition.)*

Grace is being treated with kindness, even if you don't deserve it.

SAY: *For instance, I gave grace to all of you who played the game by choosing YOU. You didn't have to show you deserved to be picked. I gave you grace again by allowing you a second choice if you did not like your first prize. I gave you a second chance. **Remember, grace is being treated with kindness, even if you don't deserve it.***

Ask children who played the game these questions:

- *What did it feel like to get picked to play?*
- *What did you think about your first prize?*
- *What did you think about the chance to have a second choice?*
- *Why did/didn't you choose to take the second choice?*
- *I wonder what the Bible tells us about grace?*

Expand

Read **John 1:35-42** out loud.

SAY:

- *Jesus was called the "Lamb of God" by his cousin, John the Baptist. John was the one God sent to prepare the way for the Savior of the world!*
- *When John describes Jesus as a "Lamb," he is not calling Jesus an animal. He is telling everyone around him something very special about Jesus. I wonder what he's saying about Jesus?*
- *He is telling them that Jesus is there to save the world.*

- *At that time, the people who believed in God would have to go to the temple (similar to our church) and offer sacrifices to God so their sins could be forgiven. A lamb was often used in these sacrifices. The lamb would pay the price for sin. This action was pleasing to God and God would forgive the person's sins.*
- *John was telling us about who Jesus is. Jesus is the one who would be sacrificed to pay the price of our sins.*
- *Paul tells us in Romans 6:23 that, "the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." The payment for sin is death; everyone has a chance to choose life!*
- *God gives us this second chance at life! God gives us grace. What is grace again? Grace is being treated with kindness no matter what. **Grace is kindness that we can't earn and don't deserve.***
- *What else happened in the passage we read?*
- *Two disciples followed Jesus. It was their choice. Jesus did not command them; he simply said: Come and follow me.*
- *The two disciples had the choice to follow Jesus. Just like all of us do!*
 - *Have you chosen to follow Jesus?*
 - *Have you chosen to love Jesus as your Savior, King, and Friend?*
 - *What does it feel like to have a second chance?*
 - *Jesus gives us a second chance not because we deserve it, but because he loves us!*

Express

Option 1: Choose one or more of the *Family Worship Activities* for Week 1 to help kids think deeper about grace.

Option 2: Divide kids into small groups, with one adult volunteer with each group. Ask your kids what grace means to them. Ask these kinds of questions:

What does it feel like to receive grace? How does it feel when you can give grace to someone else? Describe a time when you have been given grace/extended grace to someone else.

Option 3: Write out the word: "Grace" on a white board, chalkboard, or large sheet of paper placed on a table. Have the kids draw pictures of grace or write words of grace on the space provided. After this activity, have them take turns explaining why and what they drew or wrote.