



7

Saved by Grace

Key Theme

- God works in believers to accomplish His purpose.

Key Passages

- Romans 3:23, 5:8; Ephesians 2:8; Philippians 2:13

Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Describe how sinners are saved.
- Describe what faith in Jesus will produce in a person's life.



Lesson Overview



Come On In

Students will practice the memory verse by completing the Memory Verse Review Sheet and reciting the verse to a friend.



Activity 1: Saved by Grace Class Notes

Students will fill out the Saved by Grace Class Notes as you study the lesson.



Studying God's Word

God's Word says that we are all sinners. But we know that God loved us enough to send Jesus as a sacrifice for sin. So, by the grace of God through faith, anyone can have eternal life with God. That grace from God working in the hearts of believers produces good works and obedience to God.



Activity 2: Gift Game

Students will take turns answering review questions and tossing a beanbag to earn points for their team—and receive a “gift” for the team as well.

Lesson Preparation

WHAT YOU WILL DO

WHAT YOU WILL NEED



COME ON IN

- Print one Memory Verse Review Sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.

- Memory Verse Poster
- Memory Verse Review Sheets
- Pencils or crayons



SAVED BY GRACE CLASS NOTES

- Print one Saved by Grace Class Notes from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student. Keep the answer key for your use.

- Saved by Grace Class Notes for each student
- Saved by Grace Class Notes Answer Key
- Pencils



STUDYING GOD'S WORD

- Print and cut one copy of the five Scripture Strips from the Resource DVD-ROM to pass out before beginning the lesson.
- Study the Prepare to Share section.
- Go Before the Throne.

- Five Scripture Strips to pass out to five students before the lesson begins
- Tape or poster putty
- Student Take Home Sheets



THE GIFT GAME

- Use making tape to make a section grid on the floor.
- Print one set of the Gift Game Components from the Resource DVD-ROM. Keep the Gift Game Teacher Guide for your use.
- Cut out the Floor Point Cards and place one card in each square of the grid.
- Cut out the Gift Point Cards and place inside the gift box or bag.
- Gift wrap a box and its lid separately so it will open. OR use a gift bag to put the Gift Point Cards in during the game.

- Gift Game Teacher Guide
- Floor Point Cards
- Gift Point Cards
- Gift-wrapped box and lid, or gift bag
- Masking tape
- One beanbag or rolled up sock



MEMORY VERSE REVIEW GAME (OPTIONAL)

- This is an optional activity to use in some or all of the lessons to review the memory verse if time allows.
- Print onto cardstock and cut out one or two sets (depending on class size) of the Memory Verse Flashcards from the Resource DVD-ROM.
- Keep the cards for use in Lessons 7–12.

- Memory Verse Poster
- Memory Verse Flashcards
- Masking tape
- Optional: Timer

► **Pace your lesson!** Use the clocks to mark the time you want to finish each section. This will help you stay on track and finish on time. You may need to shorten or drop sections as necessary.





Prepare to Share

SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the key passages listed above with this background.

A sinner becomes a Christian when he has trusted and believed the gospel of Jesus Christ. That gospel message includes Jesus's life, His death suffered for forgiveness of sins, and His Resurrection guaranteeing that believers will live even though they die.

The sinner who has been redeemed by this gospel message lives his life as a Christian through faith. We know from Hebrews that faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen (Hebrews 11:1). The Bible tells us that as Christians, we walk by faith and not by sight (2 Corinthians 5:7) and that the just shall live by faith (Galatians 3:11).

This faith in Jesus Christ is the means by which God grants His children grace. And the Bible makes it clear that none of this is possible by human effort. It is a free and glorious gift given by God through Jesus Christ (Ephesians 2:8). The grace our holy and merciful God gives to believers is His free and unmerited favor which leads to eternal life. The gifts of grace, faith, and salvation cannot be earned by any human works, and therefore, redeemed sinners cannot boast in anything they have done—these are gifts from God (Ephesians 2:9). Sinners are not saved by works of righteousness (Titus 3:5). They are not justified by works of the Law but by faith in Jesus Christ (Galatians 2:16).

And yet believers are to live lives of obedience. We are to be holy because God is holy (1 Peter 1:16). Jesus said, "If you love Me, keep My commandments" (John 14:15). He said, "You are My friends if you do whatever I command you" (John 15:14). These statements seem to indicate that salvation in Jesus is dependent on our obedience. These might seem to be two different and contradicting ideas. To understand this, we must look into the full counsel of God's Word.

The truth is, before salvation no one can obey God or honor Him. The hearts of all men are deceitful (Jeremiah 17:9), and all are slaves of sin (Romans 6:16–17). But, by grace through faith, sinners are brought to repentance and the realization of the gospel—what Jesus accomplished for sin on the Cross. The believer is then sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who guarantees his eternal inheritance (Ephesians 1:13–14).

We see that in all true believers, it is God Himself who works both to will and to do for His good pleasure (Philippians 2:13). Believers can be confident that He [God] who began a good work in them will complete it until the day of Christ Jesus (Philippians 1:6). Christians

are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God has prepared beforehand for us to do (Ephesians 2:10).

Obedience is wrought in the hearts of believers by God Himself! When God grants His grace through faith, the sinner repents of sins and turns to the only one who can save for all eternity. The realization of salvation, forgiveness of sins, and eternal life humbles the believer and produces a heart that overflows with love and gratitude for God who would send His only Son to die while we were still sinners (Romans 5:8). This love for Christ simply cannot be separated from the desire to live a life pleasing to Him.

A true, forgiven believer, who has confidence in the hope of heaven, would have no other response but to pursue a life of holiness and obedience while knowing, at the same time, that his life is in the hands of the omnipotent, sovereign God directing him to live just such a life.

HISTORICAL/APOLOGETICS BACKGROUND

One of the beautiful truths of Scripture is the truth that we are justified by faith alone, not by works. In Romans 3:28 Paul states, "Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law." And in Romans 4:4–5 we read, "Now to him who works, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt. But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness." The Apostle Paul made it clear that God's verdict of "not guilty," and the imputation of His own righteousness to those in Christ, is by faith alone, with nothing else commending us to God. It is God's free grace that forgives us, acquits us, and counts us as righteous because of the work of Christ.

However, what we read in the book of James seems to contradict Paul's clear statements. Look, for example, at James 2:21: "Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar?" And in James 2:24, James states, "You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only." Just reading these verses, it appears that James not only says that a person is justified by works, but he seems to deny that justification is by faith alone. At least the words James uses in these verses appear to be very different from Paul's.

Before we address this apparent discrepancy, let's first keep in mind that we believe the Bible is inspired by God (2 Timothy 3:16). It is the very Word of God. It does not teach things that are false. It cannot contradict itself.

Jesus Himself said that the Scriptures cannot be broken (John 10:35). He commissioned His apostles to teach the church, and He promised to lead them into all truth (John 16:13). So, we have come to receive His Word—the Bible—as the very Word of God (1 Thessalonians 2:13), free from error and contradiction, because God is true; He cannot lie, and He is not a God of confusion.

Another thing we must realize is that we are finite creatures; we are sinful; we are culturally biased. And language itself can confuse us because different words often can carry the same meaning, and sometimes the same word can carry different meanings. Plus, we are removed from the historical setting of Scripture as well as from its cultural context and language.

Therefore, when we come to seemingly contradictory texts, we must, first, be humble enough to realize that we may not understand God's Word completely, given the deficiencies mentioned above. And second, we must do our best to interpret God's Word within the context of the whole of Scripture. Since God's Word cannot contradict itself, there must be a resolution between Paul and James, and we want to carefully consider God's Word. We want to be "a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15).

Actually, the resolution between Paul's teaching and that of James is not difficult once we understand the context. Paul was speaking against the Judaizers, a group of Jewish Christians in the early church who held that circumcision and the observance of the Mosaic Law were necessary for salvation. Paul wanted to make it clear that there are no works that we can do to commend ourselves to God. We are not saved by rituals or any works of our own but by faith alone in Christ and His work on our behalf.

James, on the other hand, was responding to those who were abusing Paul's teaching of justification by faith alone by saying that it doesn't matter how a believer lives. Some were distorting Paul's teaching by saying, "If we are justified while we are ungodly by faith alone, and this magnifies the grace of God, then let's just keep sinning so that God's grace gets more glory!"

Paul teaches that works are unnecessary, but James teaches that works are essential. But, when understood in context, Paul and James are saying the same thing. The apparent contradiction is solved when we realize that Paul was speaking of those good works that an unsaved

person tries to do in order to win God's favor or work his way to heaven. James, on the other hand, was referring to those good works that a saved person performs, which gives evidence of a real, living, saving faith.

James does not teach that good works are necessary in order to gain salvation, and Paul never teaches that good works are unnecessary after a person is saved. On the contrary, Paul agreed with James that for the person justified by faith, good works are essential (Philippians 2:12–13; Titus 3:5–8; Ephesians 2:8–10). Likewise, James agreed with Paul that the only condition for inheriting the kingdom is faith and faith alone (see James 2:5 and also Acts 15 where at the Jerusalem Council James never expressed disagreement over Paul's teaching that salvation was by faith and not by the works of the law).

Those who see a disagreement between James and Paul forget that it was Paul who wrote, "What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not!" (Romans 6:15); and ". . . having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness" (v. 18). Thus, Paul condemns the same error James was exposing. Paul never advocated any concept of dormant faith, but rather an active, working faith.

We can thank God that we are saved by grace through faith and not by our own works or righteous deeds. But it is also true that real, saving faith will manifest itself in works. As is sometimes said, "We are saved by faith alone, but true faith is never alone."



BEFORE THE THRONE

Lord Jesus, I love how clear you are in your Word about salvation and works. Man has twisted this subject for 2,000 years. But you clearly say that salvation is by grace through faith. There is nothing I can do to earn such a priceless gift. But salvation isn't the end. It's just the beginning! You continue to work in the hearts of all believers to accomplish your good works through them. Our own good works can never be good enough to earn your approval. Help me clarify this important truth to my students. Allow them by your grace through faith to come to understand the gospel of Jesus Christ.

► Because of the age and ability of 1st and 2nd graders to read and comprehend, we have written these lessons for you to read the Scriptures to the students. However, please encourage your students to bring Bibles to class. And if you have strong readers, by all means have them participate by reading God's Word.



COME ON IN

As students arrive . . .

- They will complete the Memory Verse Review Sheet. If time allows, have the students recite the verse together, to each other, or to you.

This time at the beginning of class should be used to review the memory verse. We have provided an activity sheet on the Resource DVD-ROM for you to use. You may have other ideas and ways to encourage your students to memorize the verse.



After all the students arrive, pray with them before beginning the lesson.



REVIEW

Using the Lesson Theme Posters provided with each lesson, quickly review the previous lesson(s) with your students. Take 5 to 10 minutes to reinforce the important truths the students have heard so far in your class.

Ask the children questions about the previous lessons as you display the Lesson Theme Posters. Reflect briefly on the passages you read, bringing the objectives and themes back into focus. This will refresh the truths in your students' minds and maintain continuity as you teach through the lessons.



Saved by Grace Class Notes

MATERIALS

- Saved by Grace Class Notes for each student
- Saved by Grace Class Notes Answer Key
- Pencils

INSTRUCTIONS

Print the class notes for each student. Pass them out at the beginning of class. Have students fill in the blanks as you study the lesson.

- The class notes are designed and written simply. Please encourage and help your students to read them as the class progresses. They are an excellent means to review important lesson principles.

We will complete the class notes as we study the Bible verses. Do not work ahead. We'll fill them in together.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

As we study our lesson today, we're going to talk about a very special gift from God.



Studying God's Word

Refer to the Lessons 1–4 Lesson Theme Posters and the Paul's Missionary Journeys Map. God used the Apostle Paul in a great way as he traveled, taught, and wrote to many churches and church leaders.

- ? What did Paul preach about as he traveled over all four of his journeys? *Jesus.*
- ? As Paul made his way to many cities and told the people about Jesus, there were two ways most of the people reacted to the message and truth of Jesus. What were those two ways? *Allow discussion.*

- Refer to Paul's Missionary Journeys Map to follow Paul's travels as you teach the lesson.

Some people believed and were saved by the truth about Jesus. But many people were angry with Paul. They often wanted to kill him, or run him out of town! They did not believe the truth about Jesus!

- ? What would you call all those people who believed Paul’s message about Jesus and trusted in Him for forgiveness and eternal life? *Allow discussion.*

They were called believers, or Christians. And today, anyone who repents of his sins, believes in Jesus and what the Bible says about Him, and turns to Jesus for forgiveness becomes a Christian! They are followers of Jesus Christ! And they will have eternal life with Jesus and God.



► Today’s lesson includes Scripture Strips with the verses and simple definitions of what the verses mean. Students will put the strips on the board as the class progresses.

Romans 3:23

READ THE WORD

Pass out the five Scripture Strips. I have some Scripture Strips here I will pass out to five of you. I want you to bring these up to the board during the lesson when I tell you.

You know, Christians are people who know that they are sinners, are sorry for their sins, and have turned to Jesus for forgiveness. But the good news of salvation through Jesus isn’t just for Christians—it’s a message everyone needs to hear. Do you know why? Listen as I read Romans 3:23.

Read Romans 3:23.

EXAMINE THE WORD

Observe the Text

- ? Who is this verse about? *All people.*
- ? Yes! This is about ALL people. And what do ALL people do? *Sin!*
- ? That’s right. We are all sinners. Who has Scripture Strip #1? Can you bring that to the board and read it for us? *Romans 3:23. All have sinned. Have student put the Scripture Strip on the board.*

- ? What does God think of sin? *Allow discussion.*

God hates sin! So no sinner can get into heaven—ever! Even for just one “little” sin, because in God’s eyes there are NO “little” sins. God is so perfect, pure, holy, and just that He must punish all sin.

- ? That seems hopeless and sad, doesn’t it? Because it seems like maybe no one will ever get to heaven! But wait! There is good news! And I am going to read about it now in Romans 5:8. Listen carefully now. *Read Romans 5:8 with enthusiasm, emphasizing the answers to the questions below.*

- ? What has God shown to sinners? What has He demonstrated to us? *His love.*

Yes! God shows His love for sinners through Jesus.

► Help the students read the Scripture Strips (or have their classmates help) as they bring the Scripture Strips to the board.

Romans 5:8

- ? What did Jesus do? Listen for the answer. *Re-read Romans 5:8. Jesus died for us.*
- ? Who has Scripture Strip #2? Can you bring that to the board and read it for us? *Romans 5:8. Jesus died for sinners. Have student put the Scripture Strip on the board.*

Discover the Truth

- ? Now everyone take a look at your class notes! Find #1 on the “gift.” What is the answer to that? *Assign a reader. Sinners. Have students complete #1.*
- ? We are all sinners. But what did Jesus do for sinners. It is #2 on the class notes “gift.” Can someone find that and read it? *Assign a reader. Die. Have students complete #2 on the class notes.*

Refer to Scripture Strip #2. Jesus died for sinners! That is what this verse is telling us. It really is amazing! All of us are born sinners! And we have no hope of getting to heaven. But God showed how much He loves sinners! He sent His only Son, Jesus Christ, to die on the Cross to take the punishment for sin. All sinners who believe in Him by faith will be saved and forgiven, and they will spend eternity with Him!



READ THE WORD

You know, many people think that if they are good enough, if they do good things for people and try to obey all of God’s commands, then they will get to heaven. But, the Bible says something different. I am going to read that right now. Listen as I read Ephesians 2:8. *Read Ephesians 2:8 emphasizing, “by grace you have been saved.”*

Ephesians 2:8

EXAMINE THE WORD

Observe the Text

- ? Hmm. What does God’s Word say? How are sinners saved? *By grace.*
- ? Where does this grace come from? It comes through something. What is that? *Re-read Ephesians 2:8a. Through faith.*

Sinners are saved by grace through faith! Who has Scripture Strip #3? Will you read it and bring it to the board? *Ephesians 2:8. Sinners are saved by grace. Have student put the Scripture Strip on the board.*

- ? Where does this grace that saves sinners come from? *Ephesians 2:8b. From God!*
- ? Refer to the Lesson Theme Poster and the class notes. Yes! Grace comes from God. But what else is special about God’s grace? Do you have to buy it? Or do you have to do good things to earn it? What is it? Your class notes and the Lesson Theme Poster will give you a hint. *Ephesians 2:8b. Grace is a gift from God.*

That’s right! God gives the free gift of grace to sinners so they can be saved.

- ? Who has Scripture Strip #4? Can you read that for us? Bring it up to the board. *Ephesians 2:8. Grace is a gift from God. Have student put the Scripture Strip on the board.*
- ? How many of you have ever gotten a gift from someone? *Show of hands.*
- ? What do you get gifts for? *Allow discussion. Birthday, Christmas, etc.*
- ? Now, when you get a gift for your birthday, do you have to pay for it? Does the person who gave it to you say, "Now you owe me \$10 for that gift!" *No! It is a gift!*

Discover the Truth

Refer to the Lesson Theme Poster and the Scripture Strips. That's right. You don't have to pay for a gift, because it is given to you for free. That's what makes it a gift! And the Bible tells us that God gives the gift of grace to sinners. It is a FREE gift from God! No one could ever pay God for His gift of grace. And the Bible makes it clear that sinners are saved through this gift of grace and NOT by anything they do. Good works cannot get anyone into heaven. Sinners can only be saved by God's grace.

- ? Well, find #3 on your class notes. Who can read that for us? *Assign a reader. Grace. Have students complete #3.*
- ? And what about #4 on the class notes? Will someone read that? What does the Bible call that grace from God? *Assign a reader. Gift. Have students complete #4.*
- ? So, do you know why the present is on the class notes? What is that supposed to remind us of? *Allow discussion. God's free gift of grace.*

The gift on the class notes is to remind us of what we are studying today! God's grace is a free gift!



READ THE WORD

We know that sinners can never be saved by what they do! But when they are saved by God's grace they will do good works, good deeds! And the Bible tells us something about those good works. Listen as I read **Philippians 2:13**. *Read the verse enthusiastically.*

Philippians 2:13

EXAMINE THE WORD

Observe the Text

- ? Who works in us to do good deeds? Who has Scripture Strip #5? The answer is on there. Will you read that to us and put it on the board? *Philippians 2:13. God works in us to do good deeds. Have student put the Scripture Strip on the board.*

Discover the Truth

No one can get to heaven by doing good things. But good works are still important. When a sinner is saved by God's grace, he will begin to do good works because God will be working in his heart. And the works believers do are what God wants them to do. That work brings God pleasure.

? OK. Let's go to #5 on the class notes. Who can read that? What is the answer? *Assign a reader. God. Have students complete #5 on the class notes.*



► If time allows, do a quick review of each point on the class notes.



The Gift Game

MATERIALS

- Gift Game Teacher Guide
- Gift wrapped box and lid, or gift bag
- Gift Point Cards
- Floor Point Cards
- Masking tape
- One beanbag or rolled up sock

INSTRUCTIONS

Wrap a box with a separate lid to look like a fun gift, or use a gift bag. Print and cut out the Gift Point Cards and place them in the gift box. Use masking tape to make a 16-section grid on the floor. The grid should be four squares wide by four squares long. Each section should be equal in size. Print and cut out the Floor Point Cards and place one card in each square of the grid.

Divide the class into teams. Take turns asking each team the questions on the Gift Game Teacher Guide. When a team answers correctly, allow a team member to toss the beanbag onto the grid; his team receives points on the point card in that square. If the team cannot answer correctly, you will give the answer, and the team will not toss a beanbag. However, after each turn, the team may draw a point card out of the gift box/bag to demonstrate a free gift that does not need to be earned. Compare to God's grace.

If time allows, repeat questions or add your own questions. The team with the most points wins.

OK. Now we are going to get into teams and play a new game called, "The Gift Game." I'll ask each team questions from the lesson. Your team can earn points by answering correctly, and one of you will toss this beanbag onto the grid. Whichever square it lands on, you'll get those points. So aim carefully. And, as a bonus, I have this gift box. Each time it's your team's turn, one of you may pick a point card from this box. These points will be a gift to you no matter what. You won't have to earn them by answering the question correctly. Ready? *Play the game.*

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

We often have to work to earn things. Like the work you did to answer the questions to get a chance to throw the beanbag.

Some people believe that they have to do good works to earn a place in heaven. But that's not true. The free points you picked from the gift box were to remind you of what God's Word says. God's gift of grace is free! We could never pay Him for it or earn it.





Memory Verse Review Game (Optional)

1 Thessalonians 5:16–18 Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

If you find you have extra time, please consider reviewing the memory verse with your class by playing this game.

MATERIALS

- Memory Verse Poster
- One set of Memory Verse Flashcards
- Masking tape
- Optional: Timer

INSTRUCTIONS

Allow students to look at the Memory Verse Poster and say the verse together as a class a couple of times. Remove or cover the poster before the game begins. Tape the Memory Verse Flashcards onto students' backs. Students will work together to put themselves in order according to the memory verse. If you have a large class, make two sets of flashcards and have teams race to put themselves in order. Once they think they are standing in order, check the verse by reading the words according to how they are standing. If you have fewer students, tape more than one card in the proper order on some students.

We're going to practice our memory verse. Let's say the verse together a couple times.
Cover the poster before starting the game.

Tape the flashcards onto the students' backs. Now I am going to tape these Memory Verse Flashcards onto your backs! Once I have done that, I want you to work together to get into the right order. We'll check the verse when you are finished. Most groups may need a time limit to encourage them to move at a quick pace. If so, let them know the limit and use a timer to count down the time. Once the students think they are in the right order, check them by reading the words out loud.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

- ? What are the first two words in our new memory verse? *Rejoice always.*
- ? What does it mean to rejoice always? Does it mean we are never supposed to feel sad about anything? *Allow discussion.*

That is not what that means. Because of sin in the world, sad things do happen. But when we feel sad, or things are not going the way we'd like them to, we can still have joy because we know that God is sovereign. We can trust that He is in control of everything, and He's always with us. We can always rejoice—because we can always trust God.





Applying God's Word

WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

Refer to the Lesson Theme Poster. Sinners are saved by God's grace through faith and not by works. Because no matter how good we are or how many good things we do, our goodness is not good enough for God. But God provided a way—the only way—that we could be good enough. And that is by His grace through faith in Jesus Christ.

God promises to work in every sinner who has believed through God's grace in Jesus. Our faith in Jesus Christ alone for salvation moves our hearts to do good works. These are good works that God has prepared for us to do, and they bring God pleasure and accomplish God's will on earth.

GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

You know a lot of people think that if they are good enough, they will get to heaven. But we just learned that the Bible does NOT teach that! All sinners who repent of their sins are saved by God's grace through faith. Christians are called to do good works. We are to obey God and the Bible. But don't be confused about the good works you do and think that you can earn God's approval through them. No. The good works Christians do are things that God has already planned for them to do. And they are things that God works in His children.

For those of us who are saved, we can trust that God's work is being done in our hearts. When we receive Jesus as our Savior, He changes us and lives in us. So, as we read our Bibles, pray, and get to know Him more and more, God is able to work in our hearts to actually make us more like Him. And we will continue to change and grow the rest of our lives!



➤ Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind the children to practice the memory verse this week.



MEMORY VERSE

1 Thessalonians 5:16–18 Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.



GROUP PRAYER TIME

- Pray that God will help us understand what it means to accept His free gift of grace.
- Praise God because He already paid for our sins when Jesus died on the Cross.
- Ask God to help us remember how much He loves us.

