

JULY 2020 • WEEK ONE

PRETEEN PARENT GUIDE

BIBLE STORY

Grace is a Gift
Ephesians 2:8-9

MEMORY VERSE

*God's grace has
saved you because
of your faith in Christ.
Your salvation
doesn't come from
anything you do. It is
God's gift.
Ephesians 2:8 (NirV)*

LIFE APP

Faith
Trusting in what you
can't see because of
what you can see

KEY QUESTION

Why do people give
gifts?

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no
matter what.

ACTIVITY: READY, SET, SEARCH

WHAT YOU NEED: piece of technology (phone, computer, tablet, etc., one per person if possible), paper, pen or pencil

WHAT YOU DO: Tear the paper into strips. Then grab your kid(s), technology, and pen, and find a place to sit.

Say, "What do you think would be some really amazing gifts? Like, the greatest gifts ever?"

Together, make a list of the greatest gifts you can think of. You can be as extravagant as you want! Make sure everyone adds in some ideas. Write each gift down on its own strip of paper and put them facedown where everyone can reach them.

Say, "We're going to have a search competition. We'll turn over each gift idea and see who can find the most expensive one of each of these. Ready, set, search!"

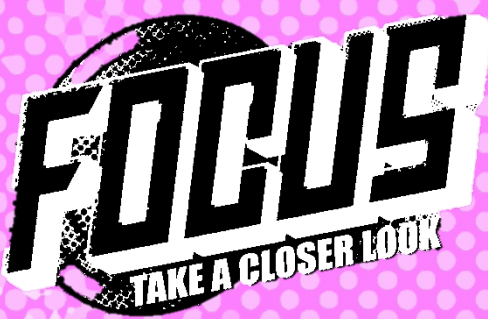
Take turns turning over each amazing gift idea and see who can find the most expensive one the fastest! (If you're sharing technology, take turns spending about 30 seconds each searching for the same item, without sharing what you find. Once everyone has had a chance to search, reveal what you found! The person with the most expensive item wins!)

WHAT YOU SAY:

Although these expensive gifts were really fun to look up, sometimes it's not the most expensive gift that becomes the most important to us (***allow kids to take turns talking about a gift they received that means a lot to them even when it didn't cost a lot of money***).

God gave us the ULTIMATE gift when He sent His son, Jesus to die for us. We cannot earn our way into a relationship with God by doing the right thing, following the rules, or being good. God's grace is a gift.

Our relationship with God isn't based on what we do. It's based on what Jesus has done. When we understand that Jesus came as a gift, and we put our trust in Him as Savior, we can have a relationship with God forever. We don't have to do enough good things in order to have a relationship with God. **Jesus is a gift for everyone.**



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Why do people give gifts?

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I can trust God no matter what.

GOSPEL MOMENT

Jesus is the One who allows us to have a relationship with God. He is the greatest gift we could EVER receive.

Since the very beginning of God's Big Story, people were waiting for a Savior. At just the right time, God sent His Son, Jesus. And when Jesus died on the cross, He paid the price for our sins. He made a way so that everything could be right between us and God and we could be with Him forever.

Remember, salvation is God's gift. God loves you—period. He made you. He has a good plan for your life. There's nothing you can do that will make Him love you any more, or any less. He sent Jesus so that we could have a relationship with Him that will last forever.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1) Name some things that we do have to earn. (examples: grades, money, approval, a spot on the team, the part in the play, etc. . . .)
- 2) What is one thing that you don't have to earn?
- 3) What is the best gift you ever received? When was it and what was the occasion?
- 4) Why can it be hard to receive a gift given for no reason, out of the blue, completely random and free?
- 5) Why is it hard for us to believe that God's gift of grace through Jesus is free?
- 6) What does it mean when someone tries to earn what God's given them for free?

PRAYER

God, thank You for the gift of your son, Jesus. Because Jesus came to Earth, lived a perfect life, and died for us, we can be in your family forever. That's incredible – that's a gift. The gift of grace. And you offer that gift to everybody. All we have to do is have faith in you. Help us to remember that You love us no matter what – even when we mess up. Amen.