



NORTHVIEW  
**STUDENTS**  
5th/6th grade

DATE(S)

October 16-17, 2021

SERIES AND LESSON TITLE

God Is – Week 4 (Gracious)

TAKE-HOME POINT (THP)

God is gracious.

SCRIPTURE FOCUS

Matthew 20:1-16

Romans 5:1-2

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Give any Campus-Specific Announcements



THE OVERVIEW

# OPENING GAME / GROUP TIME

## LARGE-GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY

### "Name That Sound"

This is a great game that gets everyone involved! Designate 3 areas in your room (area A, area B, and area C). Play each video that contains the sound clip and have students move to the area that they think is the correct answer (A, B, or C). If they're right, they're still in! If they're wrong, sit down! :-). Last person remaining wins a prize!

**\*\*\*Make sure to test the technology before playing the game!!**

## OPENING SMALL GROUP

### QUESTIONS

Take attendance and make sure to welcome anyone who is a first-time guest!

What was the highlight of your week?

If you were given the choice, would you rather climb Mount Everest or get in a submarine and explore the bottom of the ocean? Why?

When you're finished (if there's time left), pray for our time of worship.

### ACTIVITIES

STUFF TO ASK TO UNIQUELY CONNECT THE LESSON TO KIDS' LIVES

STUFF TO DO SO THINGS AREN'T BORING

# LARGE-GROUP SCRIPT

## THE MESSAGE

It is officially fall season! Who is excited about that? I know, some of you are sad that summer is over and now we're in the thick of the new school year. Obviously, with the fall season comes leaves changing color, then falling in the yard, and...eventually...ends up with you raking them up or mowing over them like three times. Who here is expected to do yardwork at home?

Alright, let's imagine that someone (your parents, a neighbor, me) recruited you and two of your friends to come and rake the leaves in their yard and bag them up when you're done. They tell you that they'll pay you \$60. Sweet! That would definitely buy you some music on iTunes, a new video game, or some new clothes! You're in! They tell you to be there at 9:00am on Saturday morning.

So, you show up at 9:00am on Saturday. You're a little tired and you're not exactly looking forward to doing the work, but \$60 is \$60! When you arrive, you notice that your friends aren't there. You start working and you're by yourself with no help. What the heck?! Finally, you get a text message or phone call from your one friend who says they had car trouble, but they're on their way and they'll be there by 10:00. You're frustrated, but at least help is on the way. They show up at 10:00 and you keep working.

The people let you take a 30 min break for lunch and then you get back to work. It's already after lunch and your third friend still hasn't shown up. You're upset because it would be really nice to have a 3rd person to help. However, you think, "Hey, if they don't show up, maybe we can get paid extra since they didn't help us." You get to the end of the day and you're bagging up the last little bit of leaves, and all of a sudden, your last friend shows up. You're like, "Dude, we've been out here all day working and you just got here?!" They come up with a lame excuse and start to help you finish...otherwise known as picking up the last pile of leaves and putting the rakes away, which only takes five minutes. So lame!

Well, at least now you'll be paid. They call your friend who showed up last inside the house first. You think, "The family we're helping is probably going to be pretty upset since they just showed up 10 minutes ago." A few min go by and your friend comes out holding \$60 and smiling from ear to ear. They begin bragging about what they're going to spend the money on. You're confused at first, but then you think, "Hey...if they got \$60 for only working 10 minutes, how much more are we going to get since we've been here all day?!"

# THE MESSAGE

You go inside the house and the family thanks you for your hard work. They hand you and your friend three \$20 bills. \$60. You say, "That is so unfair! We've been out here working all day and we got paid the same amount as our friend who only worked for 10 minutes!" The family pauses and then they calmly respond, "Didn't you agree to rake the leaves for \$60? That was the original deal, right? I have the right to decide what to do with my money, even if that includes being generous to your friend who only worked for 10 minutes."

How many of you feel this is extremely unfair? Why wouldn't you receive more money when you worked longer? The reason I shared this example with you is because it is a retelling of one of Jesus's parables. Now, parables are fictional stories that Jesus would use to teach people about God. This parable is called "The Workers in the Field" and it can be found in the New Testament in Matthew 20:1-16. Jesus used this parable to teach us a very important lesson about God's character: He is gracious! In fact, that's our **THP (or Take Home Point)** for today.

## God is gracious!

This parable paints an awesome picture of God's grace. What seems unfair on the surface is God's love on full display. The point of this parable is to say that whether you have been following Jesus for a long time or decide to accept Him into your life right before you pass away in your old age, the reward is the same – spending eternity loving and worshipping Him!

In the New Testament, a man named Paul writes this in Romans 5:1-2 – *"Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God."*

The word "justified" means "made right with God." This verse says we have access to a relationship with God because of grace. Here's the best part about grace: we didn't earn this access to God. Jesus earned it for us! How did he do that? By coming to this earth, living a sinless life, dying on the cross for our sins (not his) and then raising from the dead proving to everyone around Him that He was God!

# THE MESSAGE

Who here has been to a professional sporting event? Raise your hand! They sometimes have these contests where they pick someone from the crowd for a game and if they win the game, not only do they win a prize, but their entire row or section wins the same prize. If they end up winning the game, wouldn't you be so excited? In that moment, their success becomes YOUR success and allows you to be rewarded. Jesus's sinless life earned Him a punishment (the cross) but then it turned into an incredible reward for us: GRACE! And not just for one person...for everyone!

Here's the last thing that's important about God's grace: it's not just meant for us, it's meant to be shared with the world. In other words, we can't just live our life thanking God for His forgiveness, His love, His second chances when we mess up, and His grace...and then keep on treating people terribly, disrespecting our family/teachers, using our words to tear people down, etc. When we experience God's grace, we are meant to share that with the world! That's why the story we shared earlier should encourage you, not discourage you.

Grace is given to you no matter what you've done, how hard you've worked, or what you've achieved. It is simply a gift that you need to receive. **As our Take Home Point says, God is gracious.** He chooses to give us His grace even when we don't deserve it.

**(Teacher's Note: Share a personal illustration where you experienced God's grace in a meaningful way. This could be a way to share your personal testimony in how you came to faith in Jesus.)**

So...what about you? Have you experienced the grace of God before? Did you know that God was gracious and that grace is for you? Students, our identity is not wrapped up in what grades we get, what sports we play, how good of a kid we are, how much we go to church...it is only in what Jesus already did for us. We receive the reward because of what He did! That is grace!

**(Teacher's Note: Transition into a Gospel presentation/response time)**

# CLOSING SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

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### QUESTIONS

What was the THP today and why was it important during the message?

During the message, \_\_\_\_\_ (insert name of speaker) summarized one of Jesus's parables called "The Workers in the Field." Will a couple of people help us remember what that was about and what it teaches us about God?"

Let's read one of the verses that was mentioned during the message from Romans 5:1-2 in the New Testament. Can I have a volunteer to do that?"

*"Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God."*

What do you think it means when it says "we have been made right in God's sight?" Do we have to do anything to earn God's grace? Why or why not?

Do you think we should show the same grace God showed us to other people? Why or why not?

How will the THP help you to live differently this week? Try to think of a specific example.

How can this group pray for you this week?

### FINAL THOUGHTS

**Congratulate those students in your group who made a first-time decision to follow Jesus today! Remind them it is the best decision they could ever make and this group can serve as a support system for them.**

**Once your group discussion is finished, close your group in prayer!**

Encourage those students in your group who made first-time decisions or who made re-commitments to follow Jesus today! Tell them that this group is a support system for them and they don't have to do this life alone. If there is a student who makes a first-time commitment to Christ, have them text NVSNEXT to 85379 or fill out a response card so you can capture their information and our staff can follow up with them. Once your group discussion is over, close your group in prayer!



# PREP NEEDS

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## SMALL-GROUP SUPPLIES

- Some Bibles for students to share during group discussion
- Pen/paper for SOAP study (optional)
- Playlister material

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## LARGE-GROUP SUPPLIES

- Stupid Video of the Week
- Message script
- Message slides

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## AUDIO/VISUAL NEEDS

- Pro Presenter or Playlister