

Fourth Sunday in Lent



The Children's Illustrated Bible

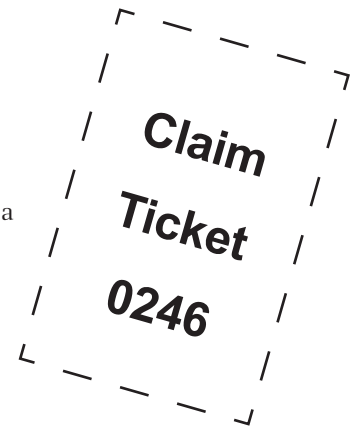
Claiming Grace

Grace means that love comes freely because of God's great love for us. It does not need to be earned. This is an important message for children to hear not only about adults, but also about the God who is more abstract and distant from them. Paul wrote of this in Ephesians 2:8-10. Even though we are "created for good works," we do not need to do good works to receive God's grace and love. If we did, we might "boast" about what we did to be so blessed. God's love is unconditional: No matter what we do or don't do, God's love will always be with us.

Claiming Grace Game

Play the Claiming Grace game. Discuss how items such as a coat or umbrella may be checked in at a restaurant or event, and a claim ticket is given to identify the item to get it back. Have each kid choose an item they have with them (shoe, watch, item in pocket) and turn it in to an assistant who tags it with a ticket number and gives kids a claim ticket.

After Photo Shoot or Amazing Grace Charades, have kids go back to reclaim their item. The claim agent returned what was already ours! Explain that this is how grace works. God lets us claim what is already ours: love and grace. Anytime we want or need it, we only have to ask God, and many times we receive God's love and grace without asking.



By grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what God has made us, created for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

—Ephesians 2:8–10 adapted

Grace the Girl

Sometimes the way to claim grace is to be all that God created you to be. Share the story of *Amazing Grace* by Mary Hoffman, illustrated by Caroline Bunch. When Grace wants to play the lead in a school drama, her classmates say she can't because she's African-American. Her grandmother changes her attitude and Grace becomes a star. She claimed grace to be what God wanted for her!

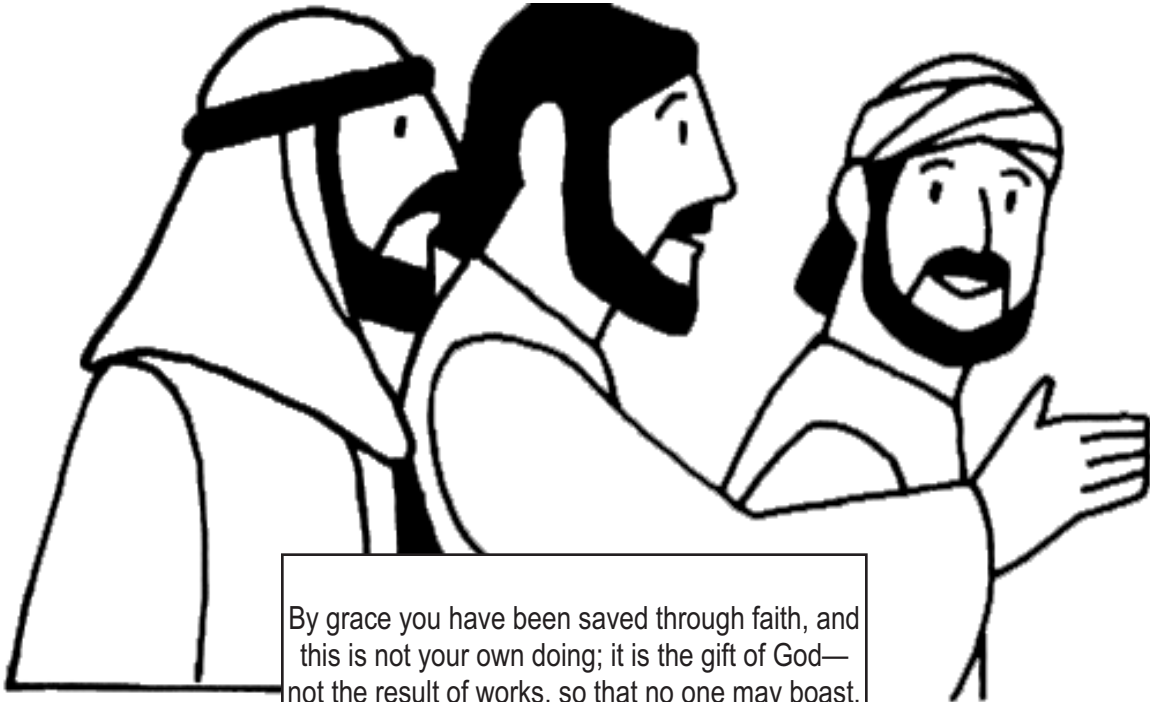
Amazing Grace Charades

Have kids think of something they can do well, or are learning to do, that they think God blessed them with special gifts or talents for, and pantomime it for the others to guess. Affirm kids that God blessed them with grace, with love and forgiveness, and wants to share their gifts and love with others.



Photo Shoot

Read Luke 24:13-35. Discuss: Suppose you could transport back to walk with him on the path. And suppose cameras had been invented in Jesus' time and someone took your picture. What would that photo look like? Give kids paper (which has lines drawn around the borders simulating a photo) and markers or crayons to draw themselves walking with Jesus.



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Unscramble words from the scripture.

1. **eracg** _____
2. **tigf** _____
3. **ksrwo** _____
4. **ihaft** _____
5. **vdsea** _____
6. **ostab** _____
7. **ercatde** _____
8. **prderpae** _____