

Study Series: All of Grace

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 Lesson Title: “Grace and Faith” (pp. 31-42)

Session 3

March 20, 2022

The main point of this lesson is: God’s grace, not our faith or anything else in us, accomplishes salvation.

Focus on this goal:To help adults look to Jesus and His grace, rather than their own faith, for salvation

Key Bible Passage:Ephesians 2:8

Before the Session

1. Bring a variety of simple hand tools to class. (Step 1)

2. Prepare, or enlist a volunteer, to draw on the board or large paper. (Step 2)

During the Session

Step 1. Create Interest / Jumpstart Discussion

Before class, find a small repair in your meeting room you might consider doing (a nail to be tapped in, a screw to be removed, a bolt to be tightened, etc.). Point out the minor project to the class.

 Say: I have some tools here; I bet I can get that done. Intentionally choose the wrong tool for the job and describe how it could be used to perform the task. After a few wrong choices, use the proper tool and do the job.

Say: In today’s session, we’re going to see there is only one proper tool for accomplishing salvation.

Step 2. By Grace Through Faith

Ask: Before this week’s study, how might you have answered this question: what is the role of faith in salvation? (Some may say faith is our part in receiving Jesus; others may say we must believe in Jesus for salvation.)

Say: The author explained faith this way. On a board, sketch a fountain, from which pipes run out in all directions. Draw water splashing all around in the fountain and flowing through the pipes. Label the water in the fountain and running through the pipes grace. Label the pipe itself faith.

Using that drawing, engage learners in discussing the parable in the third paragraph of Day One (p. 32).

Read Ephesians 2:8 and point out how it is illustrated by your drawing (grace, not faith, saves).

Step 3. Faith, What Is It?, Part 1

Read the confession of the complexity of faith (Day Two opening paragraph, p. 33). Drive home that it is composed of knowledge, belief, and trust*.* Write these three words near “faith” on the drawing from Step 2. Explain you’ll consider the idea of knowledge first.

Direct learners to the second Day Two paragraph (p. 34). Instruct them to briefly read through the paragraph, underlining the words “knowledge” or “know” each time they appear. As a group, count how many times they appear (answer: thirteen).

Ask: How are we going to know all these things? Point out that every one of these things to know are found in the Gospels and through the life of Jesus.

Encourage learners to always be reading the words and life of Christ as part of their daily worship time.

Step 4. Faith, What Is It?, Part 2

Ask: After obtaining knowledge about God and Jesus through Scripture, how do we transfer that knowledge from our brains to believing with our hearts and souls?

Point back to the drawing and stress: Faith is part of God’s grace; He enables us to believe what we have learned.

Use the first Day Three paragraph (p. 35) to communicate the author’s exhortation: “Believe the witness of God just as you believe the testimony of your own father or friend.”

Turn learners’ attention to the word “trust,” reading the Day Three paragraph (p. 36) that begins, “So far you have ….” Ask: What are some Scriptures you’ve trusted—leaned upon—in your own walk of faith?

Step 5. Faith, What Is It?, Part 3

Point back to the three main words of faith: knowledge, belief, trust*.* Ask: Now, what is it that we must know, must believe, and must trust?

Invite a volunteer to read the first Day Four paragraph (p. 37). Point out that we must first believe Christ will do what He has promised.

Invite a volunteer to enter promises of Jesus into a search engine on his/her phone and read some of the promises that appear. For each one ask: What does life look like for a person who believes this?

Invite a volunteer to read the entire second paragraph of Day Four (pp. 37-38), instructing learners to underline the quoted sentences in the center.

Say: This is our challenge: believing who Jesus is and believing what He says.

Step 6. How May Faith Be Illustrated?

Explain that in Day Five, we can learn some truths of faith.

Invite learners to point to their eyes, explaining that the eye looks and brings close the things that are far away.

Instruct learners to grasp their own hands, explaining that the hand takes what Jesus gives us. I

nvite learners to point to their mouths, explaining that we must hunger and thirst for Christ, digesting all we can grasp of Him.

Challenge learners to point to these three body parts (eyes, hands, mouth) each morning as a reminder to bring near, grasp, and nourish on—to believe fully—the truth of Jesus.

Step 7. Practical Application – Live Out the Lesson

Ask: For those of us who know, believe, and trust Jesus, what are we called to do?

Impress upon learners that our faith is not for ourselves alone, but to be lived out and become our testimony to an unbelieving world.

Challenge learners who are not actively serving inside your church to consider God’s calling. Inspire those not ministering outside of the church walls to find a place to talk to others about the love of Jesus.

