



'The Prodigal Son – grace' – Young Church Sunday 14th June 2020



1) Introduction:

Hello to everyone at St Mary's and Christ Church young and youth church, we hope you are all safe and well. The weeks continue and we hope you are finding ways to cope in these unprecedented time. You are all in our thoughts and prayers and we hope you find some joy in these weekly online sessions.

Today's 'social distance' young church is about grace with a focus on the parable – the Prodigal Son.

Grace..... How wonderful it is. It is like showers of glitter pouring around us and landing on us, like the sweets in the old Quality Street advert. Mercy is forgiving someone who does not deserve to be forgiven, but grace is so much more. Grace is giving that person forgiveness and love and things that they do not even begin to deserve. God's grace means that not only are we forgiven for our sin, but also we are made his sons and daughters, his heirs, and we inherit all the spiritual blessings that belong to Christ.

Today, we will help you begin to understand the immeasurable riches of grace that God bestows on us, and then take it one-step further – because we have been given grace, we can see how we can take this over into daily life and show grace to others as well.

2) Warm up game 'Treated well'.

Equipment needed:

Small object of your choice.

Sit with as many people in your home as you can in a circle. Choose an object and remember you can only talk when you are holding the object, and everything talked about in the circle stays in the circle.

Pass the object around and let everyone tell about a time when you felt special – for instance, when they were a bridesmaid, when they won a prize....

When we give our hearts to God, he treats us as though we are special – he gives us something called “**grace**”, which means that he gives us many blessings that we

do not deserve. God wants us to treat other people in ways that makes them feel special.

The Point: To think about what makes us feel special to begin to understand the term 'grace'.

3) Digging in: – Forgive and more!

Equipment needed:

-Access to the Internet to play the videos and listen to the audio retelling.

- 1) First, watch one or both of the videos about the parable – The Prodigal Son

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kKqHh0ukQVM>

<https://ministry-to-children.com/prodigal-son-for-kids/>

- 2) Read the parable 'The Prodigal Son'.

Luke 15:11-32.

¹¹ Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them.

¹³ "Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. ¹⁴ After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶ He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

¹⁷ "When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! ¹⁸ I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.' ²⁰ So he got up and went to his father.

"But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

²¹ "The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

²² "But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ Bring the fattened calf and kill it.

Let's have a feast and celebrate. ²⁴ For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.

²⁵ "Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. ²⁷ 'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.'

²⁸ "The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!'

³¹ "'My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'"

Think about and discuss with an adult:

-What did the father do for his son?

-Why did he do that? Why did he treat him so well?

The father treated his son with **grace**. He could have forgiven his son and let him live in the house – that would have been kind; but he went further than that and gave the boy a huge party and a great welcome.

Jesus told this story to show us how God treats us – we do things wrong and Jesus had to come to earth to die for us so that God might forgive us. And God does forgive us, when we ask him – but he goes further! He gives us so many blessings, he covers us with his love, he makes us his children. This is what **grace** is.

The Point: To learn what **grace** is.

4) Take away: 'Sprinkled with grace'

Why not listen to the song (see hyperlink below) whilst completing the take away tasks.

SONG: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rFjGpQgXGb0>

Equipment needed:

Paper, pens and pencils

Glue (ideally one which dries clear, such as PVA)

Glitter

Craft activity 1 - Just as the prodigal son's father treated him with **grace**, so God treats us far better than we deserve! So use the paper and pens/pencil draw a self-portrait and colour it in. Next, spread glue thinly (ideally one which dries clear) over the self-portrait and liberally cover the picture in glitter. The glitter represents God's **grace** covering us.

The Point: To think about how God's **grace** surrounds us.

Equipment needed:

- Ice cream
- Ice cream scoops
- Bowls
- Spoons
- Sauces
- Small sweets

Cooking/creative activity 2 - Treating someone with **grace** means giving them far more than they deserve, just like the Father did with his son in the parable shared today.

Have a dish of ice cream and add small amounts of one topping. Then go ahead and lavishly cover the ice cream with several toppings until everything is used up. This is how God treats us – he gives us more than we have asked for. This is how we should treat other people as well. Enjoy!

The Point: To think about **grace**.

5) Close prayer and St Mary's key reflection questions:

- 1) What does this teach us about God/Jesus/Holy Spirit?
- 2) What do we need to do (this week)?



Active Prayer – flowing grace:

Equipment

Shredded paper

Sit on the floor. Pray aloud, thanking God that he gives us **grace** so freely. As you pray, sprinkle handfuls of shredded paper all over your head. After prayer, stand up and shake the shredded paper off, spreading the '**grace**'.

Think of people you could treat with **grace** – siblings, for instance. Pray that God will help you to treat others with **grace**; and as you pray you should throw handfuls of shredded paper into the air.

"God shows the true richness of his grace and kindness to us because of what Jesus has done." Ephesians 2:7

The Point: To thank God for the **grace** he shows, and to ask him to help us show grace to others.

Links to other ways to worship:

<https://www.diddydisciples.org/storytellingforaprilandmay>



Diddy Disciples 'church at home' is a creative and playful worship and Bible storytelling on line resource for babies, toddlers and young children. This is a great resource for all our Young Church children, so we thought we would share.

<https://www.diddydisciples.org/thechurchathome>