

HFkids Small Group Lesson Plan ~ Week 1, Dec 1

Today's Message: Grace Helps Us Hear the Truth.

Bible Story: An Angel Appears to Mary (Luke 1:26-38)

Challenge of the Week: Find ways to be an unexpected gift to those around you.

SMALL GROUPS. SMALL GROUP LEADERS (5 - 7 minutes)

SNACK & ANGEL CRAFT

We will set our Oath Plans for now. Today, as the kids arrive, please have them complete an angel ornament for their Christmas Tree. It will be very simple and everything will be ready for you on Sunday.

STAY IN SMALL GROUPS.

CATECHIST will lead prayer & Bible Reading and Message...

Prayer & Introduction (3 minutes)

Prayer. "Our Father" or your own.

Today we begin our new series, "Grace and Truth." We begin a very special season in the Church. Does anyone know what that season is? It's the season of Advent.

During Advent we prepare our hearts to celebrate when grace and truth entered the world in a special way: the arrival of Jesus. In order to prepare we need to live our lives with Grace and Truth. "*Truth*" informs us about what to believe about different issues, while "*grace*" shows that we are loved. We need both grace and truth in our lives, in the way we talk, and how we treat others.

We all know what *truth* is - *honesty, the facts, and what is true/correct*. Think about when you tell the truth. You're being honest, right? But exactly is *grace*? *Grace is God's unconditional love that he gives to us, even though we don't deserve it*. Unconditional is a big word; what it means is that God's love is unlimited. No matter how many times you mess up, God is going to love you.

With God's grace we are able to become who it is He wants us to be. When we receive God's grace, an amazing thing happens: we are also able to give that grace to others. This unconditional love that He gives to us is a love that He wants us to share with others too!

So, how does Grace & Truth play out in our lives? Here's a scenario: let's say you're playing outside after school, and a neighbor friend pushes you off your bike.

Some of you would respond in **TRUTH**: you yell at your friend for hurting you, and just stop off and never talk about it again. This would be TRUTH, because you're being honest about how you feel.

Some of you would respond in **GRACE**: You're upset, but you tell your friend "It's ok! I'm ok!" You're extending forgiveness and love to that person, but are you really being truthful about your feelings? No! It actually is NOT ok that you were pushed off your bike. It really hurt!

Here's how this fits together: You tell your neighbor "Ouch! That really hurt! I'm really upset right now!" **TRUTH**. But after you've calmed down, it's important for you to forgive that person, showing them **GRACE**.

As you go through your week, keep your eyes open for ways to give others grace by loving and forgiving them, Fill those around you with God's love by forgiving them when they mess up. If you do, you'll be helping others see what God's grace is like. When we treat others with *Grace and Truth* we are preparing our hearts for Jesus to come again. It's actually the perfect Christmas gift that YOU can give Jesus! As a matter of fact, today we will see an example of Truth and Grace in Mary's story.

Bible Story- CATECHIST: (4 minutes)

Bible Story: An Angel Visits Mary (Luke 1: 26-38) – VIDEO: "The Story of Christmas (Mary & Joseph)" – Saddleback Kids, 2016. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XkEypzmHwCI&t=105s> (*watch the whole episode, but focus on the beginning part of the video*)

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION. SMALL GROUP LEADERS (until 11:00)

1. In our Bible story today, what "truth" did the angel share with Mary?
2. When the angel appeared to Mary and told her truth, how do you think she felt?
3. If you were Mary, how do you think you would respond to the angel?
4. Does anything impress you about Mary's response to the angel?
5. Sometimes when we hear truth it can be scary or hurtful. The next time you need to share truth that might be scary or truthful, how can you show grace in that situation? (give example)

CATECHIST: Play Message Video

Message Video - Small Group Leaders (2 minutes)

Please direct the kids attention to the TV screen and stay in small group for the message video. *Below is the video link if you want to watch ahead of time.*

- https://player.vimeo.com/external/196607615.hd.mp4?s=d517b2d948b7ffdf6dd877cbc7cdcfa781b44d84&profile_id=174&download=1

Closing Prayer (1 minute) - Everyone together (1 minute)

Hand out prayer cards, we will all recite prayer together.

Closing Prayer:

Lord, I know you always show me grace even when I mess up sometimes. Thank you for always sharing truth and grace with me. I know from the Bible that your grace is given to me no matter what. I may not always be perfect, but I'm trying to be better. Lord, help me be better. Lord, please also help me to extend grace to others when they mess up too. Help me to show your love through me. It's through grace that we can all walk in your ways and in your glory. In Jesus' name I pray.

Amen.

Dismissal 11:05

- Please make sure you take attendance if you haven't done it yet and add any names of new kids.
- After prayer, gather any Time Travellers and have them go in line at the door.