

HFkids Small Group Lesson Plan ~ Week 2, Dec 8

Today's Message: Grace Helps Us Accept Hard Truth.

Bible Story: An Angel Visits Joseph (Matthew 1:18-25)

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

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

SNACK & GAME

The kids will eat their cookies as they arrive. Start game once the majority of the kids have arrived. (We will continue the oath in January.) Today we start with an activity. Last week we discussed how we need to live our lives with Grace **and** Truth.

Remind them about the following scenario which we shared last week. 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**.

Game: Truth & Grace Snowball Pass: See the snowball activity, at the end of this document.

STAY IN SMALL GROUPS.

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

Prayer & Introduction (1 minute)

Prayer. "Our Father" or your own.

Bible Story- CATECHIST: (4 minutes)

We have been talking about what Grace & Truth are. *Truth* is honesty, facts, and what is correct. And *Grace* is the free and un-earned favor of God. We can't earn grace by anything we do for God; it is freely given to us when we believe in Him. Last week, we looked at the Bible story of Mary and the visit from the Angel telling her about baby Jesus with grace and truth. This week we are going to look at another Bible story about an Angels visit. We will be looking to Joseph, Jesus' earthly father, to see how Joseph handles truth with grace. The truth isn't always easy to hear, but God wants us to accept it with grace.

BIBLE STORY: Matthew 1:18-25. Video or Acted-Out. See Small Group Bible Reading for Dec 8th on the webpage. We will need 2 volunteers.

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

1. In our Bible story today, what Truth did the Angel give to Joseph?
2. When the angel appeared to Joseph and offered this truth, how do you think he felt?
3. Can you think of a time that you had to accept a hard truth? (maybe moving, or having plans change on something you really wanted to do, not making the team you wanted or getting the gift you wanted...)
4. Did you accept that truth with grace? Was that easy or difficult?

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/196608078.hd.mp4?s=a3b8e4cdd276b9b33f03075094e30c3dd87f2353&profile_id=174&download=1

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

Hand out prayer cards, we will all recite prayer together

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.

Truth, Grace or Truth & Grace Snowball Pass

- Hand the snowball to any child to start.
- Next, select a child to roll the die
- Have the kids pass the snowball around the circle that corresponds to the number on the die.
- For example, if the child rolls a 6, then the children should pass the snowball around the circle six times. The sixth child needs to answer a question.

SCENARIO #1

Jennie let her best friend, Kimmie borrow her favorite color magic marker (Electric Lime). Her best friend did NOT put the cap on tightly and the marker went dry!

Jennie said: That's ok Kimmie! I know you did not do it on purpose. Everybody makes mistakes. I forgive you!

ASK: Is Jennie showing grace only, truth only, or both?

ANSWER: Jennie is showing GRACE AND TRUTH? Why?

SCENARIO #2

During lunch Peyton **accidentally** spilled grape juice all over Hannah's skirt.

Hannah got up and shouted, "this stain is never going to come out of my skirt!" "I am so angry at you Peyton, you ruined my skirt!"

ASK: Is the Hannah showing grace only, truth only, or both?

ANSWER: Hannah is only showing TRUTH ONLY. Why?

SCENARIO #3

Andrew's brother, John, came home from school in a bad mood! John was **screaming** at Andrew to go in the other room so he could do his homework.

Andrew shrugged his shoulders, walked in the other room and said, "Ok John I won't bother you!"

ASK: Is John showing grace only, truth only, or both?

ANSWER: Andrew is only showing GRACE ONLY. Why?

SCENARIO #4

Timmy was throwing a ball in his house. The ball hit a shelf in the kitchen. The shelf came tumbling down along with his mom's favorite candle. The candle broke into several pieces.

Timmy's mom said: You broke the rules Timmy. You know you are not allowed to play ball in the house! I am sad my favorite candle is broken but I forgive you!

ASK: Is the mom showing grace only, truth only, or both?

ANSWER: The mom is showing GRACE AND TRUTH. Why?

SCENARIO #5

Ella told Jill that she was going to try out for the school musical. Ella made Jill promise that she wouldn't tell anyone! Jill pinky swore not to tell. The next day the whole class knew about her secret! Ella yelled at Jill and said: You did not keep my secret. You are a big blabber mouth!

ASK: Is Ella showing grace only, truth only, or both?

ANSWER: Ella is showing TRUTH ONLY. Why?