

“Grace & Truth”

“We Can Comfort Others by Extending Grace when They are Hurting”

A) ENTRANCE SONG – Worship Leader, Catechist & Dancers

→ **#1 > TECH:** Start **Entrance Song** VIDEO as soon as you hear the kids coming down (approx. 5 minutes into the Mass)

‘TBA...’

→ **#2 > TECH:** “Welcome” IMAGE immediately after song ends.

B) WELCOME – WORSHIP LEADER

Crowd Minister: choose 3 older kids now to go up and read the Prayers of the Faithful after the questions at the end of Time Travellers. Also, for **9:30 Mass only**, please choose 3 Gift Bearers.

Hi Kids! Welcome to Time Travelers. We are so glad you joined us today for our series, Grace and Truth. We are preparing 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. It brings God joy when we accept His love and grace. And speaking of joy... Did you know that the pink candle we lit today represents Joy? God wants us to be filled with Joy as we prepare for Christmas.

We have so much to do today so let me introduce myself and my friends who are serving in Time Travelers. (Introduce ministers.)

Do we have any one here for the first time today? (Worship Leader acknowledges any kids who have come for the first time.)

If you are new or you come every week, we are always glad you are here

....**Let us pray...**

C) PRAYER - WORSHIP LEADER Leads group in prayer...

→ #3 >TECH: Prayer IMAGE (has music) while Worship Leader prays.

→ #4 >TECH: "What's the big idea?" VIDEO right after the song ends.

D) BIG IDEA – WORSHIP LEADER

→ #5 >TECH: “What’s the Big Idea” IMAGE after the Big Ideas Video.

What’s the Big Idea? Well, this series we are focusing on Grace and Truth. Christmas time is the perfect time to talk about this because during Advent we prepare for the ultimate gift of grace and truth - Jesus. Without Jesus, there would be no Christmas.

Last week we learned what we can choose to accept God’s Grace. We just have to believe in Jesus and ask for forgiveness when we mess up. No matter what ...God will love us unconditionally. It’s God’s awesome gift!

When you mess up or if you are hurting, God will always be there to shower you with His Grace. Has God ever comforted you when you were hurting? Maybe you were really bummed out because of something somebody said or maybe you had a disagreement with a friend and said something you shouldn’t have said. In those times, isn’t it great to know that God is with you and that He really understands how you feel?

When you are faced with things that hurt you or if you have hurt someone, you can look for the ways God is using other people to comfort you. Maybe He’ll use your mom to give you a hug when you fall down and hurt yourself. If someone is saying mean things to you, look for friends who are standing up for you. When you take a moment to look around you will see that God’s grace is all around you and that He has put friends and family in your life to shower you with grace.

But God doesn’t want you to focus on just you. He wants you to lookout for others who might be in need of God’s grace. You might know somebody who’s hurting right now. There are SO many people around us who need God’s grace to comfort and give them peace in the midst of life’s struggles. And if we’re serious about loving them, then we need to be willing to put our love into action and build them up.

ACTIVITY:

Speaking of building up, I need 2 volunteers to come up here and help me with a little building project. (Choose 2 volunteer.)

Today you are going to be building people up... well... building snow people

Let me explain. I am going to give you each a bowl of marshmallows and you need to make as many snow people as you can in 1 minute. To make a snowman, you will need to stack 3 marshmallows on top of each other. The volunteer who makes the most snowmen wins. Doesn't sound too bad, does it? But there is a twist to our game today, while you are building snowmen, some of helpers will be trying to knock them down by tossing "Snowballs" at your snowmen. When they get knocked down, you will need to build them back up again. Any questions? We are going to start the clock on the count of 3. 1...2...3!

Great Job! Our winner today is...!!

Let's hear it for both of our volunteers for building so many snowmen. (Send the volunteers back to their seats.)

In our game today, our volunteers were building up snowmen, while our song leaders were trying to knock them down. Life can be hard sometimes and we can be knocked down like the snowmen. When we are hurting or have fear, the people who love us will show us grace and try to build us back up through loving actions. And you can extend grace too by building up others and helping them put their lives back together when they fall down. To comfort others who are hurting is one way you can show them the love of Jesus.

Jesus wants everyone to know that Love and grace should be the number one thing people think of when they think of His followers. When we show grace to others by forgiving people who have hurt us or when we're quick to give them a second chance, we show the kind of Grace and LOVE that the world needs. We're representing Jesus in a world that desperately needs to know the difference His love can make.

When you see someone who is hurting, sad, or afraid, God wants you to comfort him by giving them grace and showering them with love. I am sure that sometimes it seems overwhelming because you don't even know where to begin. But here are some ideas to help. If a friend is having some medical issues and has to face a series of tests at the doctor to find out what's going on, you can't fix the medical problem, but you can comfort her by making her a card or you can remind her that you are praying for her.

→ **#7 >TECH: 'Bottom Line of the Week'**

→ **#7 >TECH: 'REMINDER: Bottom Line of the Week'**

Or maybe you've got a friend whose parents are separating. You can't stop that from happening, but you CAN comfort your friend by spending time with him and reminding him that God loves him and his parents, no matter what happens.

That's why our bottom line is so important to remember. Let's check it out. We can comfort others by extending Grace when they are hurting.

The great news is there's something powerful that we can do anytime to show grace and love to our friends. And when you can't think of anything to do...pray for them and let them know you are praying for them too.

In our Bible story today, we will again check in with John the Baptist, Jesus' cousin. He is facing doubt because he was in prison and afraid. He even started questioning if Jesus was who He said He was. Instead of being angry, Jesus sends a message of grace and love through John's friends so that John's faith would be strengthened and give him peace.

Let's check it out as we travel back in time.

E) TIME TRAVELING – CATECHIST

→ **#8 >TECH: Time Traveling VIDEO**

→ **#9 >TECH: 'Bible IMAGE' with Gospel instructions**

BIBLE STORY – CATECHIST – God's Story John the Baptist

See Time Travellers Bible Reading for Dec 15 on our webpage for script. You will need 8 volunteers. Please use all the teen helpers and then fill the rest with older kids. Line them up towards the back of the stage facing the kids and so that they (volunteers) can easily see you as well. Give them each 2 emoji cards, do not mix them up. The person furthest to you get cards the first 2 cards, the next person gets the next 2 cards...

Explain to the volunteers that when you point, the first person is to hold their top card in front of their chest, and then the next and so on. When you get to the end of the line, start over again and this time the volunteers hold up the second card.

Lead Bible Story, as directed in the attachment.

F) MESSAGE – VIDEO (From Rebuilt)

→ **#10 >TECH:** Play **Message (Rebuilt)** VIDEO

Here is the link to the message video:

- https://player.vimeo.com/external/196608202.hd.mp4?s=aaecda2559c0332b6b4650c1c8845a44a1956028&profile_id=174&download=1

→ **#11 >TECH:** IMAGE – ‘Grace & Truth’ IMAGE right after the video

G) TALK TIME - CATECHIST

Discussion Questions:

(Leader will ask kids questions to help them apply the message to their lives. **limit answers to one child per question.**)

1. Name some ways kids your age might be hurting. (Family members are fighting; people are sick; someone they love dies; they feel disappointed, hurt, or scared)
2. What powerful “comfort tools” do Jesus-followers have that others to help others experience God's grace? (Bible, Holy Spirit, prayer)
3. Is it possible to give someone grace when you haven't experienced what that person is going through? Why or why not? What are some ways you can “put yourself in their shoes”?
4. How would you extend grace to a friend who is trusting God but his problems don't seem to go away? What would help him continue to put his confidence in God even if the situation never changes or if the problem actually gets worse?

H) WORSHIP SONG – CHOREOGRAPHER & DANCERS

→ **#12 >TECH:** **Worship Song** VIDEO at the catechist cue

‘TBA...’

→ #13 >TECH: 'Challenge of the Week' IMAGE after song.

I) CHALLENGE – CATECHIST

Comfort those who are afraid or hurting by showering them with grace.

THE APOSTLES' CREED Video

→ #14 >TECH: Play 'Apostle's Creed' VIDEO

→ #15 >TECH: 'We Pray for Others' IMAGE RIGHT AFTER VIDEO

J) Prayers of the Faithful - Catechist

Crowd Minister, send up the 3 Prayers of the Faithful readers.

We will be Praying for others by using Prayers of the Faithful format.
We will have cards available for older kids to come of up on stage to read. Our Crowd ministers will choose them for you.

Catechists: If time is running out, please read them yourself.

→ #16 >TECH: 'Lord help us to carry out your Mission this week' IMAGE

K) Closing Prayer - Catechist

Pray for the kids to carry out the Mission this week...

→ #17 >TECH: 'SEE YOU NEXT WEEK' IMAGE

THE END

TECH: The following are in case we need to fill time...

→ #18 >TECH: 'THIS IS AMAZING GRACE' WORSHIP VIDEO

→ #19 >TECH: 'ENDLESS PRAISE' WORSHIP VIDEO