



vibrant**faith**

+ Generations Together

Race for Grace

Here is a cross-generational session for all members of the congregation engaging in a fun activity to explore and understand important Bible passages about Grace. This session is designed to be conducted in about 90 minutes, and can be adapted for a shorter or longer timeframe.

Introduction

Even more exciting than the reality show with a similar name (Amazing Race); this game will have your family diving into the Holy Word while remembering exactly what God's grace really is...amazing!

I. Gather

1. Invite all participants to gather together. Conduct a simple community building activity designed to break-the-ice and help introduce people to those whom they do not know. One option is "Appointment Clock":

Create a clock with hands to each of the twelve hours. Give a copy of this clock and a pen/pencil to each family or person. The hands of the clock act as blanks for families/persons to write each other's names on. Everyone goes around and has to 'make an appointment' with someone who has an opening at the same 'time' you do on your card. You go around till you fill out all 12 spots with names. After everyone is done the leader says, 'Ok, it's 3 p.m., time to find the person you made an appointment with.' They find this person and then have to answer a goofy question and a serious question, both provided by the youth leader.

Example of Goofy Q's

- What is your favorite restaurant?
- What was your most embarrassing moment?
- What is your favorite food?

Example of Serious Q's

- What is your biggest fear?
- What is your favorite Bible story?
- If you could meet one person in human history, who would it be?
- If there was one thing you could change about your friends, what would it be?

2. Invite all participants to gather round. Offer a prayer to begin the session, such as:

O God, we know you are alive and present to us through your Word in the Bible. Bless us all today as we seek to explore your amazing grace as shown to us in the Bible. Amen.

II. Grow

During this part of the session, families and/or small groups will engage in a fun Bible learning activity adapted from the activity called The Amazing Grace.

Needed

Bibles (one for each family/team), Paper Notebooks (one per family/team – any kind), Pens/Markers, Saltshakers (for Station #6)

Prepare in Advance

- Cut out the instructions for each station from Amazing Grace Stations handout and set-up stations in your large meeting room with visible numbers to mark them. You may need two or three copies of the slip at each station so that multiple families/teams can do the activity simultaneously.
- Fold the pieces of paper in half and place at each station.
- Designate a 'Finish Line'. This should be a place where everyone can gather for conversation at the end.

Activity Plan

1. Ask all participants to form family groups or teams of 3 or 4 persons.
2. Assign each family/team to one of the six Amazing Grace Stations and ask them to go stand at that station. Explain that this is their starting point, and they will visit each station.
3. Once everyone is in position, explain the rules of the game:
 - The goal of the game is to fully complete each task at every station and be the first to the finish line.
 - Each family/team will need to complete the item written at each station in your team notebook. When a family/team is done at a station, fold the paper and put it back where found. Move on to another station.
4. When all teams have completed all six stations and are gathered at the finish line, talk through these discussion questions.
 - Which activity was hardest for your team to complete? How come?
 - Which verse stood out the most to you and why?
 - What is something your team did that you were proud of?

Tear out your favorite page from the notebook and keep it somewhere to remind you of your family's love and that God's grace truly is...amazing!

III. Go Forth

To conclude this session, have families/teams work together to create a “Prayer Bowl” for use at home.

Needed

Small slips of paper (multiple slips per family/team), pens or pencils or markers, small envelope (one per family or individual)

Activity Plan

1. Ask participants to gather again in family groups or teams.
2. Invite each person to take at least one slip of paper and write or draw a prayer request on the slip. One prayer request per slip. Persons can use more than one slip if they wish.
3. If time allows, invite people to share their prayer requests with family/team members.
4. Ask family members to collect all the prayer slips and put them in an envelope.
5. Ask team members to exchange prayer slips so that each person has some slips from other team members. Place them in your envelope.
6. Instruct people to go home and place the prayer slips in a bowl and place the bowl in a place easily accessible by all household members.
7. Tell them that tomorrow morning, each person is to take a prayer slip out of the bowl and carry it with them throughout the day, praying over it whenever they can, and certainly at night before bed. Do this each day until all the prayer slips have been taken.
8. If you wish, make the prayer bowl a permanent part of your household and invite members to add new slips as needed.
9. Once you have given them all the instructions, conclude the session with this simple prayer:

Lord, help us to share with one another our daily struggles and lift them up to you to make our loads lighter. Amen.

The Amazing Grace

By Audrey Cox



Even more exciting than the reality show with a similar name (Amazing Race); this game is played in the comfort of your own home with your family! This activity will have your family diving into the Holy Word while remembering exactly what God's grace really is...amazing!

For

Teen Family

Season

Spring

Needed

Bible, Dice, Paper Notebooks (one per team – any kind), Pens/Markers

Prepare in Advance

- Decide on a 'Game Time' when your whole family can be together to play.
- Cut out the instructions for each station from Amazing Grace Stations handout and set-up stations around the house with visible numbers to mark them.
- Fold the pieces of paper in half and place at each station.
- Designate a 'Finish Line'. This should be a place where everyone can gather for conversation at the end.

Activity Plan

1. Divide evenly into teams OR complete all activities as a whole family.
2. Explain the rules of the game:
 - The goal of the game is to fully complete each task at every station and be the first to the finish line.
 - Each team will roll the die. Whatever number they roll is the station where they will start. If a team has already rolled that number, roll again until you get a different number.
 - Each team will need to complete the item written at each station in your team notebook. When a team is done at a station, fold the paper and put it back where found. Move on to the next station.
3. When all teams have completed all six stations and are gathered at the finish line, talk through the attached discussion questions.
4. Variation: Make it fun by adding your family's personal touch. Make up team names or instead of numbers, you could make up 'locations' after places your family has been together. For example, instead of station one, put "The Grand Canyon" or "Grandpa Joe's House". If you are short on time, set-up three stations!

The Amazing Grace Stations

Station 1: Open your Bible to Hebrews 12:1 and read aloud. Draw a cloud and write the names of people who have shown you God's love. Once everyone has written at least one name, move on to the next station!

Station 2: Open your Bible to Ephesians 2:4-9 and read aloud. Draw a present and write what this text tells us is a gift from God! Once you have completed your present, move on to the next station!

Station 3: Open your Bible to 2 Corinthians 12:8-9 and read aloud. Take the hand that is NOT your writing hand (your weaker hand) and write the word GRACE as big as you can with it. If you can write well with both hands, use both at the same time! Once everyone has written it, move on to the next station.

Station 4: Open your Bible to 2 Timothy 1:2 and read aloud. Write a letter to the other team (if you are the only team, write it to another family you know) and begin it exactly as this verse is written, but replace Timothy's name with their names. Have everyone add one sentence and then sign your names. Once the letter has been written, move on to the next station!

Station 5: Open your Bible to Titus 2:11 and read aloud. Draw each member of your family (yes...stick figures work perfectly!) and then write the word GRACE on each person. Be creative! When each family member has been drawn, move to the next station!

Station 6: Open your Bible to Colossians 4:6 and read aloud. Grab the salt! Have each person on your team sprinkle salt in their mouth and then say something nice about another team member. When you have received a compliment, add your signature to the page. After everyone has signed, move to the next station!

Finish Line - Answer the following questions:

1. Which activity was hardest for your team to complete? How come?
2. Which verse stood out the most to you and why?
3. What is something your team did that you were proud of?
4. Tear out your favorite page from the notebook and keep it somewhere to remind you of your family's love and that God's grace truly is...amazing!