

Grow



HELPING GIRLS GROW IN JESUS

"Let your roots grow deep into Jesus."

Colossians 2:7

Module 7: Grow in Grace



Girls Will learn

You are forgiven. You matter to God.

Key Verse

“God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can’t take credit for this; it is a gift from God.” – Ephesians 2:8 NLT

Module Components

Create Energy	Get Hands-On	God’s Word	Application	Talk About It	Life Skills
<i>Beaded Cross</i>	<i>Pass the Parcel</i>	<i>Missing The Mark</i>	<i>Demonstrate Grace</i>	<i>Race</i>	<i>Woodworking</i>
Begin meditating on the meaning of the cross by creating a beaded cross craft.	Grace is a gift. Have girls explore this concept by opening a gift over and over again.	Learn about how grace covers a multitude of (NERF blaster) mistakes.	We can pay it forward when it comes to grace.	How we should treat those who are different from us and ensure we are living in unity?	Try swinging a hammer, using a saw, and leveling up a picture, then create your own wooden masterpiece.

Suggested four-week schedule

Week 1: Create Energy, Get Hands-On

Week 2: God’s Word, Application

Week 3: Talk About It

Week 4: Life Skills

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Message to Leaders



With over 13 million copies in print in over 38 languages, many are familiar with Dr. Gary Chapman's "5 Love Languages," which suggests that the ways we express and receive love can differ from person to person. Some feel most loved when someone gives them a hug (their love language is Physical Touch.) Others experience love when someone says they are proud of them (their love language is Words of Affirmation.) My dominant love language is Acts of Service; I dote on those whom I love and feel the most loved when those around me serve me. (My husband has learned this and will often do the dishes for me – and my heart responds.) On the opposite end of the spectrum for me is gift giving. It makes me positively uncomfortable to give and receive a gift. It is perhaps because of this that I sometimes wrestle with the concept of grace being a gift.

But a gift it is, and one that we must receive if we are to receive salvation.

Grace can be a difficult concept for teens and adults alike to comprehend. It is something that we are freely given, yet do not deserve. In our world of capitalism, of having to work for what we earn, our cultural reality can make this even more difficult to understand and thus to receive. We understand the "wages of sin" more readily than the "gift of God." What's more, we live in a world where there are consequences for our actions, and girls will be used to this reality.

Romans 6:23 reminds us that "the wages of sin is death." We are all sinners, and thus we are all deserving of death, and no acts of service can change this reality. Thankfully this is not the end of the verse. It goes on to say, "but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." That "but" is perhaps the most important word in the Bible. That "but" is where we find amazing grace. Sin and death is not the end of the story; life through Jesus Christ is, and it's a happy ending indeed. And this grace is a gift. A gift of incredible love. Regardless of what your love language is, we all need to be willing to accept the gift of salvation by trusting Jesus with our very lives. It is through receiving Jesus' gift, and in doing so believing in him and trusting him, that we receive that which we do not deserve – pardon for sin, peace of heart, and abundant life. So reach out and accept the gift of grace, and then encourage the girls to do the same. ~Laura

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Beaded Cross



Make an easy beaded cross that the girls could wear as a pendant, keychain or bag embellishment. Instructions are taken from www.cutoutandkeep.net.

What You Need

- 2 feet of jewelry wire (24-30 gauge is best) OR beading thread per girl
- 10 large and 40 small beads per girl
- Wire cutters or scissors

What To Do

1. Slide three small beads, one large bead, and three small beads onto the center of your wire
2. Slide another large bead on one side. Slide both wires through it and center above the first large bead.
3. Slide three small beads on both sides and a large bead on one side. Slide both ends through the large bead and center it above the others.



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4. Repeat step 3.



5. On one side, slide on a small bead, a large bead, three small beads and one large bead.



6. Bring the end of the wire down, around and back through the first large bead.



7. Tighten the beads.



8. Repeat steps 5-7 for the other side.



9. Add an small bead to each side and a large bead on one side. Slide the other wire through the large bead.



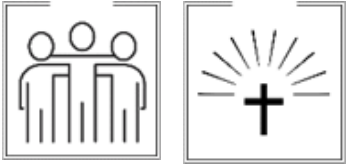
10. Add three small beads to each side, a large bead to one side, and slide the other wire through the large bead.



11. Finish the cross by twisting the wires together and making a loop with the remaining wire. You may wish to add a chain or keychain ring at this time.



Pass The Parcel



What You Need

- Newsprint or wrapping paper
- Tape
- A shareable prize (like a large bag of mini candies)
- A label that says “Grace”
- Music

Before You Begin

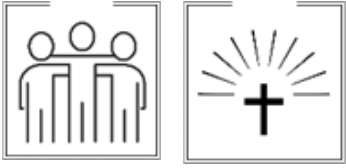
- Prepare your parcel. First, place the label “Grace” on the prize. Next, wrap your prize over, and over, and over again in layers of newsprint or wrapping paper. You want to aim for at least one layer per girl.

What To Do

1. Have girls sit in a circle. When the music starts playing, have the girls pass the parcel from one girl to another in a clockwise direction. When the music stops, the girl holding the parcel will unwrap one layer of wrapping paper.
2. Play the game until the prize in the middle is found. Share the prize amongst the girls.
3. Ask – What is grace? (Receiving a blessing or gift we did not deserve; God’s grace is God giving us what we don’t deserve.) Why do you think the word “grace” is on the prize?
4. Read Ephesians 2:8 together. Ask – Does this help us understand why the word “grace” is on the prize? (Grace is a gift from God.)
5. Share – We would not have received the candy prize if we did not choose to receive and open the gift. It is the same with grace.

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Missing the Mark



What You Need

- NERF blaster(s) with NERF darts
- A frisbee (or two or three)
- A beach ball or balloon
- Poster board with a target drawn on it.
- Bibles, or pre-printed Bible verses.

What to Do

1. Play the Following NERF challenges ¹

SAUCER INVASION

Have one girl toss a frisbee in the air. Another girl with the NERF blaster has to try to hit the frisbee with a dart before the frisbee hits the ground. If this is too easy, try having two (or three) girls each toss a frisbee in unison, and the girl with the NERF blaster has to try to hit all of the frisbees before they hit the ground.

If space doesn't allow you to toss these high, head outside, or lightly toss the frisbees from a seated position.

THE DISTANCE

This can be done with a beach ball or balloon and works best if two or three people have blasters. Toss the ball or balloon in the air. The girls with the blasters shoot at the ball or balloon, using their darts to keep it in the air. You could have someone time how long the balloon stays in the air and rotate to see which group can keep it in the air the longest.

BULLSEYE

Simple NERF dart target practice. Tack the poster board target to a wall and have girls try to hit a bullseye.

¹ Junior High Ministry. "Youth Group Lesson on Grace: Dude...Not Perfect." Junior High Ministry | Junior High Bible Lessons, April 28, 2019. <https://juniorhighministry.org/youth-group-lessons-on-grace/>.

2. Have girls open their Bibles to Romans 3:23 (or have it printed for the girls.)

“FOR EVERYONE HAS SINNED; WE ALL FALL SHORT OF GOD’S GLORIOUS STANDARD.” – ROMANS 3:23 NLT

Discuss – Sin isn’t a word we use much anymore. Does anyone know what it means? (Allow time for answers.) When Paul wrote this letter to the Roman Christians, the word he uses in Greek for “sin” means “to miss the mark. ”

Ask – Now, how many of you had a difficult time hitting the frisbee, or the balloon, or the target in our NERF challenges ? (Hopefully everyone.) In real life, the idea is the same. Just like we all had a difficult time with at least one of the challenges, when we sin we are missing the mark/goal of what God has in mind for how we should live.

Ask – How does it feel to know that everyone has missed the mark in at least some area of their lives? Does it encourage or depress you that everyone sins? (It can be encouraging to know that even those who seem to be “really good” have sinned, it can be discouraging that everyone sins – why even try to do what’s right if we are all going to fail?)

Ask – In what areas of your life have you felt like you needed to be perfect?

3. Have girls turn in their Bibles to Romans 6:23 (or have it printed for the girls.)

“FOR THE WAGES OF SIN IS DEATH, BUT THE FREE GIFT OF GOD IS ETERNAL LIFE THROUGH CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD.” – ROMANS 6:23 NLT

Ask – What’s the greatest gift you’ve ever received? Ever given?

Ask – Looking at Romans 6:23, why is it good that we don’t get what we deserve for our sins? (What we deserve is death, and that isn’t a good gift. You may want to describe here that death can be synonymous with eternal separation from God.)

Discuss – But the verse doesn’t end there. God offers us a gift because he loves us. And this gift is eternal life, and a relationship with God. How does it make you feel that, even though you are guilty of sin and have missed the mark in life, God offers you this gift?



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Recall from our last (week's) activity that in order to get to the prize in the middle of our parcel we needed to make a choice to unwrap the gift. It is the same way here. God offers each of us this gift of salvation. He is able to offer us this gift because when Jesus, God's only son, died on the cross, he suffered the death penalty that we deserved, and he did so for everyone! Now, we need to receive the gift of eternal life by believing and trusting in Jesus.

4. Have girls turn in their Bibles to Romans 5:8-11 (or have it printed for the girls.)

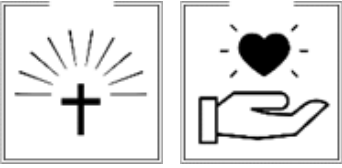
“BUT GOD SHOWED HIS GREAT LOVE FOR US BY SENDING CHRIST TO DIE FOR US WHILE WE WERE STILL SINNERS. AND SINCE WE HAVE BEEN MADE RIGHT IN GOD’S SIGHT BY THE BLOOD OF CHRIST, HE WILL CERTAINLY SAVE US FROM GOD’S CONDEMNATION. FOR SINCE OUR FRIENDSHIP WITH GOD WAS RESTORED BY THE DEATH OF HIS SON, WHILE WE WERE STILL HIS ENEMIES, WE WILL CERTAINLY BE SAVED THROUGH THE LIFE OF HIS SON. SO NOW WE CAN REJOICE IN OUR WONDERFUL NEW RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD BECAUSE OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST HAS MADE US FRIENDS OF GOD.” – ROMANS 5:8-11 NLT

Discuss – God knew we would never be perfect, so He took care of our sin problem for us. Jesus’ death and resurrection are the answer to our sin problem. Now, instead of being God’s enemies, we are his friends when we accept God’s gift of grace and become followers of Jesus.



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Demonstrate Grace



What You Need

- White paper, a whiteboard or flipchart paper
- Markers or chalk
- Bibles or Pre-printed Bible verses

What To Do

1. Read Ephesians 8:8-10 together.

Review the definition for “grace” from the “Getting Hands-On” section (Grace is receiving a blessing or gift we did not deserve, God’s grace is God giving us what we don’t deserve.)

Ask – How does it help to know that God wants to do good through you, that he offers you this gift of grace to save you for a purpose?

2. As a large group, or in smaller groups, brainstorm ways that we can show grace to those around us. If working in smaller groups, allow time for groups to present their ideas to the larger group.

Responses may include:

- Showing grace with our words (speaking with kind and gentle words even when that person has spoken harshly to you.)
- Looking for the needs of others (holding a door for someone, helping someone with their schoolwork, even if they have never done anything courteous for you.)

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- Making a financial gift (you worked hard for your money, but you can choose to give it to a worthwhile cause.)
 - Forgiving others (maybe a server spilled water on you, or the fast-food place got your order wrong? Offer grace and forgive them for these mistakes.)
3. Hopefully forgiveness has shown up on your list(s). If it hasn't, add it now. Highlight that grace and forgiveness often go hand-in-hand.

Read Matthew 18:21-35 to the girls.

Ask – What does it mean to forgive someone? (To cancel a debt, to stop feeling angry or resentful towards someone who has wronged you, regardless of whether they are sorry or not.)

Ask – How would you feel if you were the first man who was forgiven by the king? (relieved, thankful etc.)

Ask – How would you feel if you were the fellow servant who was arrested because he couldn't pay his debt? (scared, angry, anxious etc.)

Ask – Do you think the king was justified in his response to hearing how his servant had acted? Why or why not?

Ask – Do you think Jesus was being literal when he told Peter he needed to forgive 77 times? (No, doubling the number 7 means that Peter must forgive perfectly and infinitely.)

Ask – How does it make you feel knowing that God will forgive you 77 times?

Ask – Is there someone you need to forgive? Take a moment just now to think of that person and try to release the feeling of anger and resentment you feel towards them.



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Prayer



God, thank you for loving me even though I am not perfect. Thank you for sending your son Jesus to die in my place to cancel the debt of my sin. Help me to show grace to those around me by forgiving those who have wronged me, even when they don't deserve it. Amen



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Woodworking



Basic carpentry skills can not only be good to have for life, but woodworking projects can be an whole lot of fun to create too!

TALK TO A PRO

Ask a carpenter or someone you know with knowledge of woodworking to show the girls three basic wood working techniques – this might be a great way to get an adult in your Corps to participate in Grow! Some basic woodworking elements to choose from are:

- Swinging a hammer (You could try hammering nails into a piece of wood in the shape of a spiral, star etc.)
- Using a level (You could have girls practice hanging pieces of paper on the wall with tape using a level to keep them straight)
- Use a screwdriver (Attach two pieces of wood together using a screwdriver.)
- Saw some wood (Saw a simple shape like a square, or if your pro is comfortable, girls could try cutting the first letter of their name)
- Sand some wood (If they have sawed a specific shape, they could sand their creation using a square of sandpaper.)

Please be sure to take all safety precautions possible for these activities. Provide safety goggles for girls to wear and go over safe tool practices with the girls prior to trying any technique.

BUILD SOMETHING YOURSELF

Allow the girls the opportunity to practice their woodworking skills by building something themselves! We've provided a few suggestions below, or you and your "pro" can select a different project.

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Thrift Store Upcycle

If you have access to a community Thrift Store, allow girls to select an old wooden item from the Thrift Store to restore.

- Make any necessary repairs
- Sand the original finish, removing original paint
- Repaint or refinish the wood

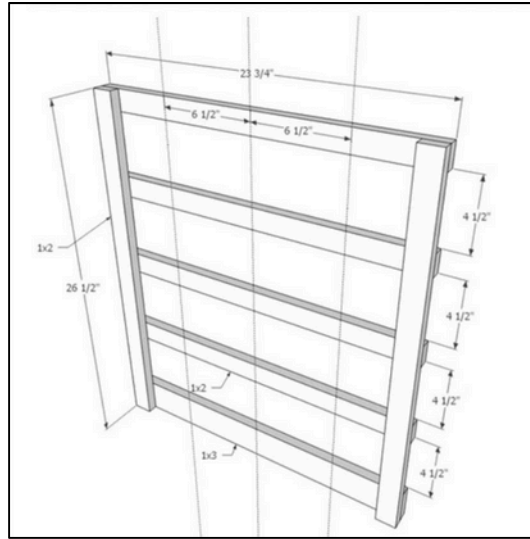
Nail and String Art

Using any size wooden board, hammer nails into a shape of the girls' choice. Then, create a web of string to fill in your design for a stylish piece of art.



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CLOTHESPIN PHOTO FRAME



This project, from ana-white.com, uses 1x2 boards, wood glue, a staple gun (or short nails) and clothespins to create a stylish photo or card holder.