

RESOURCE BUNDLE ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS

START ZONE: THE GOSPEL – LESSON OPENER (5 MINUTES)

OPTION 1: BIRTHDAY GIFT BOX

WHAT YOU'LL NEED: Inexpensive birthday gift for each child who has a birthday in the current month, wrapped gift box containing one of the birthday gifts (for the child whose birthday is closest to current date)

OPTIONAL: Continue this pattern for the club year. Offer this same gift to all T&T™ kids during their birthday month.

ACTIVITY:

STEP 1: Hold up the gift box and ask all the kids who have a birthday in the current month to stand. Find out which child has the closest birthday to the date of today's club meeting and ask him or her to come forward to receive the gift. (If no kids have a birthday in the current month, call out the next month. Keep naming months until kids stand.)

STEP 2: Before you hand the gift to the T&T kid, say, "I changed my mind. In order to have this gift, you need to do a chore for me." Name a tedious chore, such as vacuuming or sweeping the floor, wiping all the tables, or washing the windows. Watch the child's face, and ask, "Do you still want the gift, even though you have to work for it and you don't know what it is?"

STEP 3: After the child responds, tell the child you are just joking about the chore and that you will give him or her, as well as the other kids with birthdays in the same month, a gift at the end of T&T that day. Ask these questions:

To the child who came forward:

A. How did you feel when I said you had to work to get the gift? Why did you feel that way?

To all T&T kids:

A. Remember your last birthday or Christmas gift. Did you have to work for that gift? Why not?

B. What is a gift? Is it still a gift if you have to work for it? Why not?

STEP 4: In your own words, say, "A gift is something someone gives us out of kindness or love. They don't expect us to work for the gift or be good enough to have it. They don't expect us to give them something in return."

Today we're going to talk about a gift that God gives us, and it's the best gift of all."

STEP 5: Open in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to guide you and the kids into God's truth through the lesson. Transition to main lesson.

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START ZONE: THE GOSPEL – MAIN LESSON (10 MINUTES)

OPTION 1: GOOD OR BAD LIST?

WHAT YOU’LL NEED: Bible bookmarked at Genesis 1 and Ephesians 2:8-9, whiteboard with dry erase markers and eraser

LESSON PREP: Start two lists on the board. Title the first list “God’s Good People List” and the second list “In Big Trouble List.”

ACTIVITY:

STEP 1: Since some of your kids may have no church or Bible background, begin by introducing them to God and the Bible. Open your Bible to Genesis 1 and use your own words to share these key concepts:

- God was alive before anyone or anything else. God created the whole universe and everything in it, including us. The word *created* means “made from nothing.”
- God is good, and everything He made was good. That means that there was nothing wrong with anything He created, including the first two humans He created.
- (Hold up your Bible for this point.) The Bible is God’s special book. We’ll learn more about the Bible next week, but you need to know that in the Bible God talks to us and tells us about Himself.

STEP 2: Write the names Adam and Eve in the God’s Good People List. Explain that Adam and Eve were the first humans created by God. They were created to be like God in many ways, and they were sinlessly good, at first, meaning they hadn’t sinned. (Help kids understand that sin is anything we think, say, or do that disobeys God. Sin can also be those good things that God wants us to do that we don’t do, like helping someone in need.) But God gave them freedom to make choices for themselves. One day they made a very bad choice! Ask these questions and let the kids respond:

- Does anyone know what Adam and Eve chose to do? (See Genesis 3, if needed.)
- Was what Adam and Eve did a sin? Why?
- What is sin?

STEP 3: Erase Adam and Eve’s names from the first list and move them to the In Big Trouble List. Explain that as soon as Adam and Eve sinned, they got in big trouble with God, so now you are moving their names from the God’s Good People List to the In Big Trouble List. Ask the kids these questions:

- Have you ever gotten in big trouble for disobeying your parent, a teacher, or someone else? What happened?
- Does anyone know the big trouble that happened to Adam and Eve?

STEP 4: Explain that Adam and Eve had to leave the beautiful garden where God walked and talked with them. They also got the worst punishment that people could ever get: DEATH! Write the word *DEATH* in capital letters above or below the In Big Trouble List. Explain that sin is so serious to God that He said the punishment for sin is death. It’s very sad because Adam and Eve lived for many years, and then they died. Sadder than that, all the people who lived after Adam and Eve died too, because they were related to Adam and Eve and they were sinners too.

Add several random Bible character names to the In Big Trouble List (except Enoch and Elijah who may not have died; see Genesis 5:24 and 2 Kings 2:11).

STEP 5: Point to the God’s Good People List and say that any person on this list would get the reward of LIFE forever with God in heaven. Write the word *LIFE* in capital letters above or below the list. Then explain that since Adam and Eve first sinned, no human has ever been good enough to make the list, because all humans are born as sinners and all humans sin. And that includes us!

Add general name categories like T&T kids and T&T leaders to the In Big Trouble List. Explain that because of our sin, we all deserve death, like Adam and Eve, and there’s nothing we can do to get ourselves out of this punishment.

STEP 6: In your own words, say, “But I have some good news, kids! God still loved Adam and Eve, and all of us who are sinners. He didn’t want us to die and miss out on life forever with Him in heaven, so He gave us a big gift. He made a way to save us from the punishment for our sin!”

Write the name Jesus Christ in the God’s Good People List. Explain that God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, down from

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heaven to become a man (who was also God). Jesus Christ lived on earth like us, but He never sinned. He is the only person who is good enough to be on this list. He didn't deserve to be punished, but He let people kill Him by nailing Him to a cross. Jesus took the punishment of death FOR us, so that we don't have to be punished for our sin! Then Jesus Christ didn't stay dead. After three days in a tomb, He came alive again. He went back up to heaven, and He's there now.

STEP 7: Open your Bible to Ephesians 2:8-9. Tell kids that they will be learning and memorizing words from the Bible in T&T, and the first words to learn are from Ephesians 2:8-9. Read the verses from your Bible, and then read them again slowly in phrases, letting the kids repeat each phrase after you. Write the word *GRACE* in capital letters on the board somewhere. Share these key concepts:

- A. The Bible uses the word *grace* a lot. Grace means giving somebody something good that he or she doesn't deserve. God has shown us a lot of grace! He loves us and gives us kindness and gifts that we don't deserve.
- B. God's most amazing gift to us is Jesus! If you and I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and trust that His death was the punishment we deserve for our sin, then we will be saved from that punishment, and we will live forever with Jesus in heaven.
- C. Remember, we said that a gift is something we don't have to work for or be good enough for; someone gives it to us out of kindness and love. We didn't deserve the gift of Jesus; we deserved to be punished for our sin. But because of God's grace, He gave us Jesus so we could be saved.

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OPTION 2: GIFT PICTURES

WHAT YOU'LL NEED: Sheet of paper for each kid, colored markers or crayons

STEP 1: As you are handing out paper and markers or crayons, tell the kids to think about their favorite birthday or Christmas gifts. Direct kids to each draw a picture on the paper of the best gift they have ever received.

STEP 2: After a few minutes, let several kids share about their pictures. Ask these questions:

- A. Who gave the gift to you?
- B. Did any of you have to work for your gift or be good enough to get it? Why not?
- C. What is a gift? Is it still a gift if you have to work for it? Why not?

STEP 3: Wrap up the discussion by saying in your own words, "A gift is something someone gives us out of kindness or love. They don't expect us to work for the gift or be good enough to have it. They don't expect us to give them something in return. Today we're going to talk about a gift that God gives us, and it's the best gift of all."

STEP 4: Open in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to guide you and the kids into God's truth through the lesson. Transition to main lesson.

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OPTION 2: GOSPEL POWERPOINT

WHAT YOU'LL NEED: Gospel PowerPoint® (Resource Bundle), computer, digital projector, screen or bare wall

STEP 1: Present the Gospel PowerPoint. Your kids will hear a clear gospel presentation using engaging visuals and the Gospel Wheel.

STEP 2: After the PowerPoint, open your Bible to Ephesians 2:8-9. Tell kids that they will be learning and memorizing words from the Bible in T&T, and the first words to learn are from Ephesians 2:8-9. Read the verse from your Bible, and then read it again slowly in phrases, letting the kids repeat each phrase after you. Write the word *GRACE* in capital letters on the board somewhere. Share these key concepts:

- A. The Bible uses the word *grace* a lot. Grace means giving somebody something good that he or she doesn't deserve. God has shown us a lot of grace! He loves us and gives us kindness and gifts that we don't deserve.
- B. God's most amazing gift to us is Jesus! If you and I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and trust that His death was the punishment we deserve for our sin, then we will be saved from that punishment and we will live forever with Jesus in heaven.
- C. Remember, we said that a gift is something we don't have to work for or be good enough for; someone gives it to us out of kindness and love. We didn't deserve the gift of Jesus; we deserved to be punished for our sin. But because of God's grace, He gave us Jesus, so we could be saved.

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