

Read: Ephesians 2:4-10

Rejoice that We Are Saved by Grace

Ephesians 2:8-9

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works so that no one can boast.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Why does a grandma cook for a grumpy grandchild?

Why does a mom sing lullabies to her baby who is screaming in her ear?

Why does a dad give a hug to a teenager who crashed the family car?

Why does a friend play with a person who spoke mean words yesterday?

And why does God give you family and friends who love you?

Why do you get to hear birds singing on days when you feel like crying?

Why does a puppy come to sit by you when you're feeling all alone?

Why does your favorite food make you smile when your whole day has made you frown?

Why does your best friend make you laugh when you were bored?

And why does God let us smile while we live in this world?

Why did God imagine your life before the world began and choose you to be in heaven?

Why did Jesus scrub your sins away with his blood when he died on the cross?

Why did the Holy Spirit ignite faith in your heart when you heard the story of Jesus?

Why did God save you from hell and put you on the highway to heaven?

You can answer all those questions with one word: GRACE. Here's a simple definition: Grace is why you get good things that you don't deserve. Grace is essential when you realize you've messed up. If your family only took care of you when you behaved well, you would not make it very long in this life. If God only allowed you to smile when you worked hard enough to smile, you'd have a very frowny life. And if God only rescued people who earned his love by doing good works, nobody would go to heaven. If God weren't gracious, we would all be worried.

But that is crazy talk. "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast" (Ephesians 2:8-9). You see God's grace in all the good things you don't deserve—from your family to your happy days, and even the forgiveness of your sins and your eternal life in heaven. God gives you good things just because he's nice. So don't worry. Rejoice that we are saved by grace!

The questions below are to help families discuss this devotion. The questions are divided by age group as suggestions, but anyone could reflect on any of the questions as they desire.

Questions for the Younger Children

- What is the one word that explains all the good things God does for you?
- How would you feel if God only saved people who earned his love?

Questions for Elementary Age Children

- Can you list five examples of grace?
- If people are saved by grace and not based on their behavior, predict what different types of people you might meet in heaven.

Questions for Middle School and Above

- Explain how God's grace can stop you from becoming proud and braggish.
- Explain how God's grace can stop you from becoming guilt-stricken and hopeless.

Closing Prayer:

Dear Jesus, you love us and bless us because you are so kind, even when we are not. Make us happy to receive your grace so that we can focus less on ourselves and more on you. Amen.

Hymn: CW 384:1,2 – By Grace I'm Saved

By grace I'm saved, grace free and boundless;
My soul, believe and doubt it not.
Why waver at this word of promise?
Has Scripture ever falsehood taught?
So then this word must true remain:
By grace you, too, shall heav'n obtain.

By grace! Oh, mark this word of promise
When you are by your sins oppressed,
When Satan plagues your troubled conscience,
And when your heart is seeking rest.
What reason cannot comprehend
God by his grace to you did send.