A central red sun with yellow rays is set against a blue background with white stars. The text "God's Forgiveness and Grace" is written in white cursive script across the sun.

God's
Forgiveness
and
Grace



Year 1–Quarter 1 “God the Father”

Quarter Aim: God is not distant or unapproachable; rather, He is a caring Father who loves us deeply and wants the best for our lives.

Lesson 4: God’s Forgiveness & Grace

What Does “Grace” Mean?

*“Our Lord poured out more and more of his **grace** on me. Along with it came faith and love from Christ Jesus.”
(1 Timothy 1:14 NIRV)*

Q: What do you think “grace” means?

For Christians, “grace” is a very special word. You’ve probably heard the word but may not know what it means. Grace means “undeserved favor.” **God’s grace is His undeserved favor abundantly poured out on those who desperately need Him.**

You may know some girls or women named Grace or Gracie. A lot of churches have the word “grace” as part of their name. And, “Amazing Grace” is one of the most well-known songs worldwide. It’s written by a man named John Newton who understood the immensity of God’s grace in his life. (See John Newton’s life story on a supplement page.)

Teach: God is Gracious

Read 1 Samuel 1:1-8 to the group. Choose children to play the parts of Elkanah, Hannah, Peninnah & Eli while you read. After reading through the text, make sure the kids in the group get the following points.

- There was a man named Elkanah who had two wives- Hannah and Peninnah.
- Peninnah had children, but Hannah didn’t.
- Every year Elkanah’s family would go to Shiloh to worship the Lord and sacrifice to Him.
- One year while they were in Shiloh, Hannah got really upset and wept and cried out to the Lord in prayer. In her prayer she promised God that if He would give her a son that she would give him back to God to serve Him.
- Eli, the priest saw her praying and confronted her and Hannah told him what she was praying and Eli prayed for her as well.
- Elkanah and his family went home and soon Hannah became pregnant. When the baby was born, she named him Samuel because she asked the Lord for him.
- When Samuel was still a very young boy (around 2 maybe), Hannah took Samuel back to Shiloh where she offered a sacrifice to God.
- Then, she took Samuel to Eli, the priest, and told him that she asked God for a baby and He gave her Samuel, so she was keeping her promise to God and was giving Samuel back to Him to serve God.

God was **gracious** to Hannah; He heard her prayer and He gave her Samuel. Explain how **gracious** has the root word **grace** in it and that grace can be defined as getting what we don’t deserve and that God is gracious to His people by giving us what we don’t deserve.

Power Point

God forgives us
and gives us
grace.

Lie:

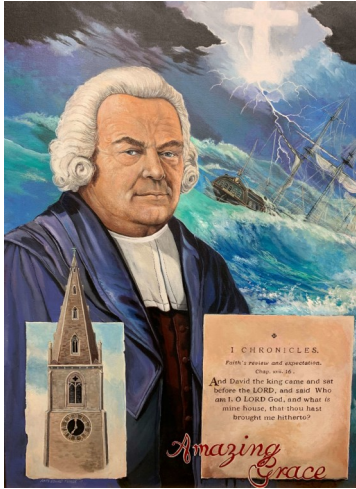
God is mad at me.

Truth:

Psalm 103:8, *The Lord is tender and kind. He is gracious. He is slow to get angry. He is full of love.* (NIRV)



Life Story of John Newton



John Newton was a man who lived a very interesting life. He was born in **London, England** on **July 24, 1725**. When he was young, his mom passed away, and he started going on sea adventures with his dad. Imagine sailing on big ships across the ocean! As he grew up, John became a sailor in the Royal Navy. But guess what? He also did something not so nice: he worked on ships that traded enslaved people. These ships took people from Africa to the West Indies, where they were treated very poorly. But here's the amazing part: one day, while steering a ship through a scary storm, John felt something special. It was like a light in his heart. He decided to change his ways and follow God. He wrote a beautiful song called "Amazing Grace" to celebrate this transformation. It's a song that many people still sing today!

John Newton didn't stop there. He became a minister and even fought against slavery. He wanted everyone to know that no matter what they've done, **they can find grace and change for the better**. So, remember John Newton and his song when you need a little hope!

Prodigal Son Story

John Newton's story is much like the prodigal son in the Bible. Jesus told the story of a family with 2 sons. The younger son told his dad one day that he wanted to take his share of the family money and go away to see the world rather than stay home and help his dad run the farm. So, he did. But, he was very reckless with his money and spent it all while doing bad things—like John Newton did when he was away from home.

Anyway, this younger son got a job feeding pigs, but even that wasn't enough for him to buy food to take care of himself. He was miserable. So, he decided to go back home and ask his dad to let him be a servant. What do you think his father did? Was he angry with him for leaving in the first place and spending all his money? Or, was he happy to see his young son again? Let's find out.

Read Luke 15:11-24

- Q: Focusing on verse 20, what was the father doing?
- Q: What actions did he take when he saw his boy coming home?
- Q: Did his dad have just a little bit of love for his boy or a lot of love?
- Q: Why did the father celebrate?

Wow! Did you expect that? The prodigal son didn't deserve his father's favor. He had done some bad things. But, his dad was looking for him to come home. That is a picture of God's grace. The Bible says that God's grace is so abundant it's like a cup overflowing.





Object Lesson

Key Verse: Ephesians 2:8,9 (Additional: John 3:16; 2 Tim. 1:9; Rom. 6:23)

Materials Needed: Dollar Bill

(Hold up the dollar bill)

Have you ever seen one of these before? Of course you have! It is a dollar bill. Tell me some ways that you can get one of these dollar bills?

(Let the kids respond. If they don't know you can coach them with earn it, steal it, borrow it, have one given to you, and etc.)

There are many ways that you can get this dollar bill. But let me ask you, who does this dollar bill belong to? That's right it belongs to me. And what can I do with this dollar bill? Anything I want to! I need a helper to assist me. (Choose a kid to help you.)

Does this dollar bill belong to you? (No) Who does it belong to? (You) Would you like to have it? (Yes) Here! It is yours, you don't even have to do anything for it! It is a gift!

God's grace is a lot like that dollar bill. It is something that has great value. But there is nothing that you can do to earn God's grace, favor and forgiveness. In fact, Ephesians 2:8-9 says that it is a gift from God. If we were able to work for it we could brag about it, but God just wants to give it to us for free!

Grace is simply getting something nice that we don't deserve. My helper didn't deserve that dollar bill, but I gave it to him/her anyway. Even though we don't deserve God's grace he offers it to use freely.

Craft: F.R.O.G.G.I.E. Mask

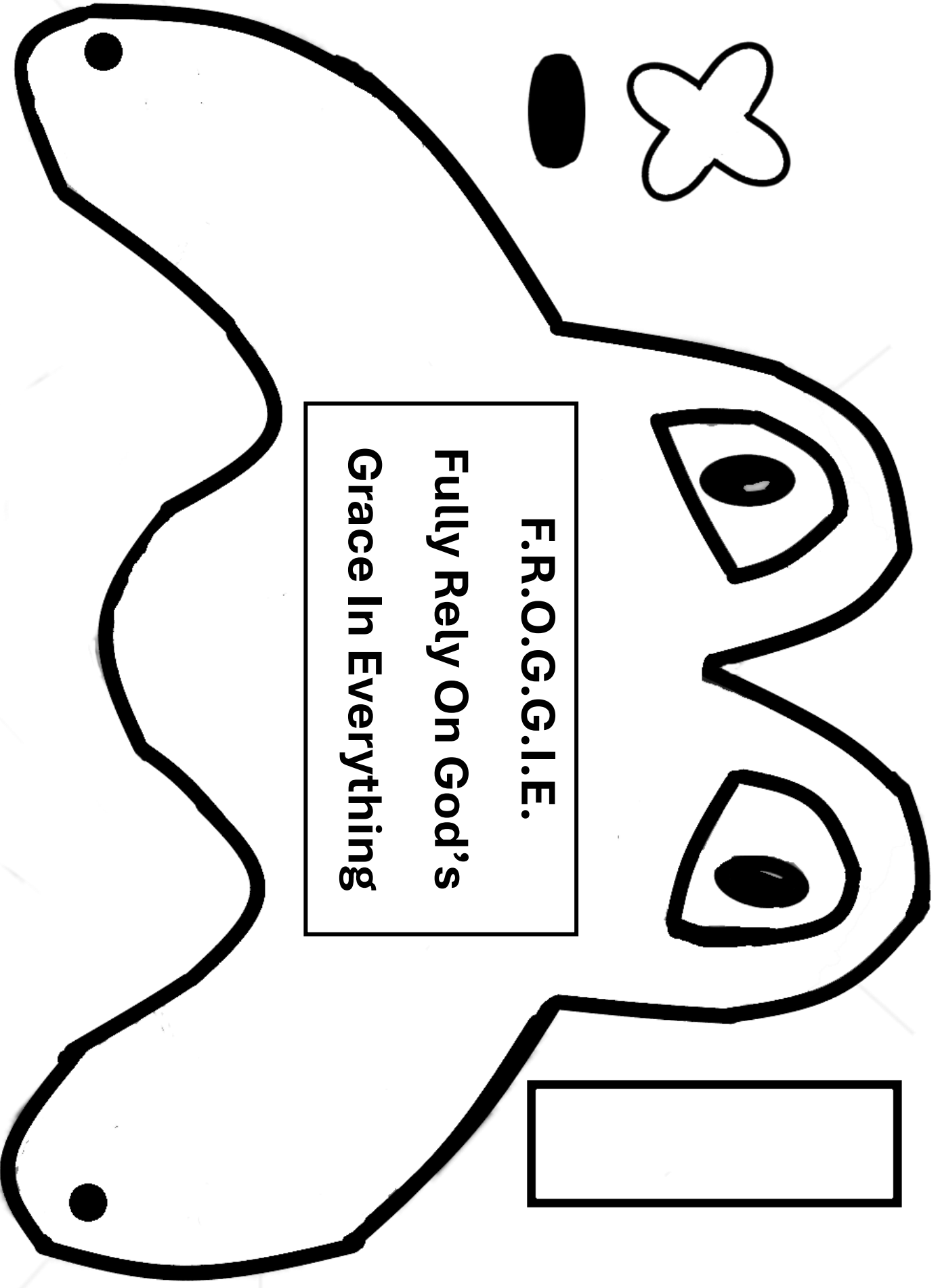


Needed: Copies of template (on supplement page), paper plates, green paint, red construction paper, string (or ribbon or construction paper strips), scissors, black marker.

Instructions:

- Cut out the mask template and use it to trace around on the paper plate.
- Cut the mask out of the plate and paint it green. (Do ahead so they are dry.)
- Cut out the eyes, caption label, & bug to glue to the mask.
- Cut out the rectangle shape from red construction paper for the tongue. (roll it up on a pencil)
- Punch holes in the corners of the mask for the string to attach.
- Glue the caption label to the mask.
- Glue the bug to the end of the red tongue.





F.R.O.G.G.I.E.
Fully Rely On God's
Grace In Everything

