

Daily Devotions



Week 7

The Grace of God

Armand and his family have been going to the Christian Church with the Jensens for several weeks now. They have learned many things about the Most High God and His Son, Jesus. Of all the things that Armand has learned over the last few weeks, one thing has really stood out. That thing is God's grace. Again today, Armand listened to the Pastor as he told about God's grace. The Pastor told how God shows us kindness that we do not deserve. Again, he told how Jesus died on the cross and rose on the third day so that all who believe can be saved. The Pastor told that this does not mean that all people are saved or will be saved. The Bible tells that there are two different places in eternity for all people. Those who by God's grace believe in Jesus Christ as Savior will go to heaven. Those who choose not to believe in Jesus will spend eternity separated from God in hell. Armand now understood enough to make the decision that would change his life forever. He would pray to receive Jesus as his Savior and become part of God's family by grace. And he did just that.

Monday: Grace means, "unmerited favor." It is kindness from God that we don't deserve. There is **NOTHING** we have done, nor can ever do to earn this favor. It is a gift from God. It is by this grace we are saved. God shows both mercy and grace, and it is important to realize that they are not the same. Because of mercy God withholds a punishment we deserve. And because of God's grace He gives a blessing we don't deserve. What are some of the blessings that God gives us that we don't deserve? *Read John 1:16.* In the Greek language this might say, "grace upon grace," or "grace in place of grace." This is like a constant, overflowing gift. Grace is God giving a great treasure to those who don't deserve it—which is every one of us. How truly awesome is that!

Tuesday: Did you know that by grace we can also grow as Christians? *Read 2 Peter 3:18.* What do you think that "grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ" means? Growing in grace is becoming more like Jesus our Savior. Growing in grace is **learning more of what God wants** through His Word. We can do this by reading the Bible and by learning in a church class. It is also **being able to do more of what God wants**. We can find out what God wants by reading His Word and through prayer. And it is **living with the love of God**. We can do this with God's help each day. Write down three simple things you can begin to do so that you can begin, or continue, growing in grace.

Wednesday: As we are learning, grace goes beyond Salvation. Each day we experience God's grace. Today, make a time line of events from your life. Start when you were born. Then add things you remember like learning to ride a bike, your first day of school, brothers or sisters being born, meeting your best friend, and the day you received Jesus as your Savior. Think about how God's grace has been part of your life from the day you were born until now. *Read Psalm 103:2.* Why do you think it is important to remember all that God has already done for you? When we remember what He has done for us in the past, it reminds us of His grace. By grace God has kept us safe, helped us, answered prayer, and brought us to Salvation. When we remember we are also encouraged as we grow to be more like Jesus. God has been working in our lives since birth and He will not stop now. Remembering what God has done also helps us gladly obey Him because we know that He knows just what is best for us.

Thursday: Just as we have received God's grace, we can also show grace to others. This is an important step in growing in grace and becoming more like Jesus. God has been merciful to you and in turn you can show grace to others. How do you think you can do this? *Read Colossians 3:12.* Make a list of ways to show grace to others. If you need help, think about these questions:

- Can you help someone in need? You may not be able to help in a big way, but can you do some small act of kindness to help or encourage someone else?
- Can you speak in a way that is gentle and kind even if the person you are speaking to doesn't deserve it?
- Can you forgive someone who has hurt you if they are sorry or even if they are not?
- Will you ask forgiveness when you have hurt someone else even if you didn't mean to?
- Can you take time for someone else even when you are really busy?
- Do you remember to say, "thank you?"

Friday: Today, take time to praise our God for His grace. Again, think about all that God has already done for you. Think about how He is working in you as you do devotions each day. Write out a prayer of praise in your notebook to our great God.