

KIDMUNITY | This I Believe

Lesson 08: Saved by Grace

Large Group Script

Bottom Line:

I am saved by grace through faith in Jesus – not by being good enough.

Memory Verse:

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

Supplies Needed

- 40 Stackable Cups
 - 4 Blindfolds
 - 4 balloons
 - Large Bucket (Home Depot orange bucket)
 - 4 medals for all participants
 - A Wrapped Gift
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MEGA BRAIN BLAST NINJA CHALLENGE 5000

ON STAGE

- 4 contestants ready
- 2 scorekeepers (each tracking 2 kids)
- Table with cups, balloons, blindfolds, beanbags
- 1 large Home Depot bucket placed toward the back of the room
- Medals hidden/offstage

Alright, everybody, it's time for the **Mega Brain Blast Ninja Challenge 5000!** I'm going to need four contestants to come up on stage. Come on up and spread out across the front.

Here's how this works. You're going to compete in five fast challenges, and after each round, you'll earn points based on how you finish. Your goal is simple—you are trying to earn enough points to win the game.

Scoring:

- 1st place = 100 points
- 2nd place = 75 points
- 3rd place = 50 points
- 4th place = 25 points

We've got scorekeepers who are going to track everything for us so I don't have to do any math up here, which is good for everyone involved. Let's get started.

Round 1: Lightning Trivia Smackdown

For our first round, this is the Lightning Trivia Smackdown. Keep your hands behind your back, and the first person to shout out the correct answer wins. We'll go one question at a time.

Here we go:

- What planet do we live on? (*Earth*)
- What is frozen water called? (*Ice*)
- What is the capital of the United States? (*Washington, D.C.*)
- What gas do humans need to breathe in to stay alive? (*Oxygen*)

Great job. Scorekeepers, go ahead and lock in those placements.

Round 2: Cup Stack Attack

Now we move to round two, Cup Stack Attack. Each of you has ten cups. When I say go, you'll stack them into a pyramid and then take them all back down into one stack. First one to finish wins.

Ready, set, go. Keep going, keep going... and stop. Scorekeepers, mark those placements.

Round 3: Memory Meltdown

Round three is Memory Meltdown. In just a second, you're going to see ten random items on the screen. You'll have ten seconds to study them, and then the screen will disappear. After that, you'll try to write down as many of the items as you can remember.

Look closely. Here we go.

Alright, time's up. Write down everything you can remember. Keep going... and stop. Scorekeepers, count how many of each contestant's guesses were correct and rank them.

Round 4: Blind Keepy-Uppy

Round four is called Blind Keepy-Uppy. Each of you is getting a balloon and a blindfold. Your job is to keep your balloon in the air as long as possible while blindfolded. If your balloon hits the ground, you're out. The last person still going wins.

Go ahead and put on your blindfolds. Ready... three, two, one, go. Keep it up, keep it up... and we have a winner. Scorekeepers, mark it down.

Round 5: Extreme Precision Toss

Now, for our final round, Extreme Precision Toss. Each of you gets one beanbag. You'll throw from the front of the stage toward the bucket in the back of the room.

Here's how scoring works:

- If you make it in the bucket - double points
- If not, ranked by how close your throw is

One at a time, let's see what you've got. Alright, scorekeepers, finalize those scores.

Score Reveal

Now, contestants, I want you to line up from highest score to lowest score so we can see where everyone landed. Let's find out if anyone earned enough points to win this challenge.

Because to win this game... You needed... **5,000 points.**

You all did a great job, you competed hard, but it looks like nobody reached the score needed to win. Let's give them a hand anyway. You guys can head back to your seats.

The Twist

Wait. hold on. Stop. Come back up here for a second.

I just had an idea. I don't like that you didn't win. In fact, I want you to win. So here's what I'm going to do. I'm going to give each of you a bonus. Not because you earned it or deserved it, but just because I want to give it to you.

I'm giving each of you **5,000 points.**

That means every single one of you wins. Let's celebrate and give them their medals.

SAVED BY GRACE

Okay, that game was crazy. I think the craziest so far, right?

We have something really special to talk about tonight. In many ways, tonight's talk is a direct continuation of last week's talk. Let's review.

God is a perfect and just judge. He created a good world and gave Adam and Eve one rule, but they disobeyed. When sin entered the world, it brought death and separation from God, and that's not just their story—that's our story too.

Last week, we saw something incredible. Jesus stepped in for us. He took our sin, paid our punishment, and gave us His righteousness in return.

Because of Jesus, the debt has been paid.

(Pause and let that settle) But the story isn't finished yet.

WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

So if Jesus did all of that... what do we do?

The ball is in our court now. There's a response that has to happen, and this is where most people get it wrong. Our instinct is to think there must be something we need to do to finish the job.

HUMAN INSTINCTS | WORKS

Our natural instinct is to think, "Okay... what do I need to do?" Because everything in our lives works that way. We are trained to believe that EFFORT leads to RESULTS and that if we want something, we have to EARN it.

- At school: do the work, get the grade
- In sports: practice, earn your spot
- At home: behave, earn privileges
- With friends: be nice, earn acceptance

Our whole world runs on earning, so it makes sense that we would assume our relationship with God works the same way.

Even most religions in the world operate in this way. They teach that if you do enough good things, maybe you'll be okay in the end. It becomes like a giant checklist, and the problem is you never really know if you've done enough.

THE PROBLEM | YOU CAN'T EARN IT

But we've already learned something important. God's standard is not "pretty good."

God's standard is PERFECTION.

If the standard is perfection, then no matter how hard we try, we fall short.

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God

Romans 3:23

Every single one of us has sinned. That includes me, that includes you, that includes all of us.

No matter how many good things we try to do, we can't fix the problem on our own. Just like in the game, no matter how many points you tried to earn, it was never enough.

BUT GRACE | GRACE CHANGES EVERYTHING

But this is where everything changes. Christianity is different.

Your relationship with God is not based on what you do. It's based on what Jesus did. Jesus lived the perfect life we couldn't live, He died to pay for our sin, and He finished the work completely.

Because of Jesus, the way we become right with God is no longer about earning—it's about receiving.

GRACE DEFINED

Grace means God gives us something we did not earn and do not deserve. It's not a reward for being good, it's a gift.

That means we didn't earn it, we didn't achieve it, and we don't deserve it. God gives it freely.

ILLUSTRATION | THE GIFT

Hold up a wrapped gift and explain that you have something to give away. Choose a kid to come up and stand next to you. As you hold the gift out, explain that you bought it, you paid for it, and you are offering it to them.

Then ask the group, “Is this gift theirs yet?”

Let them answer. The answer is no, because they haven’t taken it. Explain that a gift doesn’t actually become yours until you receive it. Then let the kid take the gift.

Point out that they didn’t earn it, they didn’t pay for it, and they didn’t do anything to deserve it—they simply received it. That’s what faith looks like.

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Ephesians 2:8-9

NOW WHAT?

Now, come back to the main question. If we don’t earn it, what do we do?

The answer is simple. We believe, and we receive. Believing means trusting that Jesus really did this for us, and receiving means accepting the gift that God is offering.

There is no checklist. There is no earning. There is no “being good enough.” It’s simply trusting Jesus and receiving what He has already done.

SALVATION MOMENT

Make this clear and simple. You don’t become right with God by trying harder. You become right with God by trusting Jesus.

If you’ve never done that before, you can talk to God TONIGHT. You can admit that you’ve sinned, believe that Jesus died for you, and choose to trust Him to save you. It doesn’t have to be complicated; it just needs to be real.

PRAY AND DISMISS

Pray together and dismiss to small groups.