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God’s Promises for You

In \textit{Delivered: God’s Gifts of Grace}, students search fourteen Bible accounts to learn about God’s Means of Grace: the Word and Sacraments. They will see how through the Gospel, Holy Baptism, Absolution, and the Lord’s Supper, our triune God gives us His awesome gifts of salvation, faith, forgiveness, eternal life, and the strength to live as His people.

\textit{Delivered: God’s Gifts of Grace} offers two levels. Level B (this guide) is designed for students who are independent readers; in most cases, this means students who have finished grades 2–6. Level A is for children who are non-readers—generally preschool through those who have finished grade 1.

Features of the Teacher Guide

- Easy-to-use, four-step weekly lesson plans
- Suggestions for snacks and worship
- Reproducible student activity pages for each lesson
- Age-appropriate ways to teach the Bible and apply it to young lives
- A Bible study for the teacher, titled “Preparing the Lesson”
- “Living the Faith” suggestions for extending the lesson truths beyond the classroom
- Perforated pages to make team teaching or small- or large-group teaching easier

What You Will Need

- This Teacher Guide
- Items listed on the Materials list in each lesson
- Bibles, catechism, hymnal, children’s songbook, and an offering basket
- Scissors, tape, glue, paper, crayons or markers, and other standard classroom supplies
- \textit{All God’s People Sing!} and \textit{Lutheran Service Book} (CPH)

The Four-Step Lesson Plan

Opening

- Welcomes students and helps them transition to the classroom
- The Opening activity introduces the lesson theme and activates prior knowledge to prepare students for the lesson. As a help, invite an adult volunteer to prepare and teach this activity each week.
- Provides an Opening ritual; suggestions for large-group openings are found on the Director CD

God Speaks

- Teaches the Bible account and reviews the details using the Student Leaflet as an aid in investigating the lesson
- Teaches the Bible Words
We Live
- Applies the Law and Gospel in the text to the students’ lives
- Provides a craft option to help students take home the key point

Closing
- Provides a closing song and prayer
- Gives suggestions to help students apply what they learned beyond the classroom

Student Leaflets
There are colorful four-page leaflets, available as a separate purchase, to go with each lesson in this curriculum. The leaflets have the Bible story, a Bible-story hidden picture, review activities, and a prayer. They make a great take-home piece for family use.

Director CD
This CD, available for purchase, has many additional resources:
- Reproducible Opening outline
- Opening devotions
- Bible Words
- Snack ideas
- Craft ideas
- “Preparing the Lesson” Bible studies
- Decorating ideas
- Reproducible pages
- Clip art
- Bulletin notes
- Hymn and song recordings
Preparing the Lesson

Jesus Welcomes the Children

Matthew 19:13–15; Luke 18:15–17—God wants me to be part of His family.

Key Point

We are all needy because of sin, but Jesus welcomes people of all ages and blesses us with His love and forgiveness.

Law/Gospel

Because of my sin, I am helpless and needy and can do nothing to save myself. Jesus works through the Means of Grace to invite me to come to Him, blessing me with His gifts of forgiveness and eternal life.

Context

For roughly the first thirty years of His earthly life, Jesus lived much like any other human being of His time and culture, except without sin. Born in Bethlehem and raised in Nazareth, Jesus worked as a carpenter, adopting His earthly father’s trade. Now, it was time for our Lord to adopt His heavenly Father’s trade. In today’s Bible account, we encounter Jesus in the region of Perea, northeast of Bethlehem and Jerusalem.

Following His Baptism in the Jordan River, Jesus began His earthly ministry, teaching about the kingdom of heaven, healing, and working other miracles. It’s no wonder Jesus drew large crowds of people wherever He went. He presented the love of God and salvation as a free gift of God’s grace, rather than as a consequence of our best efforts to keep the Law. He taught about loving, forgiving, and showing mercy to one’s neighbor. He spent time with those the rest of society often rejected: tax collectors, lepers, and prostitutes.

In this lesson’s text, Jesus took time from His demanding schedule to welcome and embrace children. Likely with the best intentions, the disciples rebuked the children. Perhaps they believed Jesus was far too important to trifle with little ones. Maybe they believed children were too limited to grasp His divine teachings. Regardless, our Lord makes clear that the little children are welcome. What’s more, He uses a child’s humility and natural trust to explain key elements of the Christian life.

Commentary

Jesus understood two important truths about little children that the disciples may have missed: (1) they are just as precious in God’s sight as a person of any other age, and (2) they need the salvation that God gives in Christ as much as a person of any other age.

Conceived in sin, all people, regardless of age, are unable to love, trust, or please God or come to Him. Without the forgiveness earned by Christ and given through the work of the Holy Spirit, all human beings would spend eternity in hell. We might assume that the disciples who rebuked the children believed them to be too cognitively or spiritually simple to grasp Jesus’ message. They were correct! However, the same was true for the disciples and everyone else present.

Jesus understood not only that the children needed His salvation but also that—because of the work of the Holy Spirit—they could have it through faith. For this reason, He embraced and touched them.

God’s desire to bring salvation to the little children in Perea extends to children, and people of all ages, even today. For this reason, God has given us His Means of Grace: the Word and Sacraments. The Bible teaches that through the Means of Grace, God draws lost and condooned sinners out of sin, death, and hell and brings them forgiveness and everlasting life in heaven. His Word and Sacraments are His divine and effectual means to bring what Christ earned on the cross to all, even the little children!

To hear an in-depth discussion of this Bible account, visit cph.org/podcast and listen to our Seeds of Faith podcast each week.
Lesson 1

Jesus Welcomes the Children

Connections

Bible Words
[Jesus says,] “Let the little children come to Me.” Matthew 19:14

Faith Word
sacrament

Hymns and Songs
Amazing Grace (LSB 744; Director CD 1)
Father Welcomes (LSB 605; AGPS 95)
Jesus Loves the Little Children (LosP, p. 94; Director CD 7)

Catechism
The Holy Spirit brought me to Jesus by bringing the promise of the Gospel to me and by giving me faith. . . . Christ is made known to me by . . . the Word, Baptism, and the Lord’s Supper. (Questions 186 & 189)

Take-Home Point
God wants me to be part of His family.

1 Opening (10 minutes)

Welcome

To Prepare: Hang a United States map on a bulletin board with 20 push pins around it. Decorate your classroom to show a National Park and travel theme. See the Director CD for ideas. Make copies of “A Responsive Reading on God’s Gifts of Grace” (p. 12). On white cardstock paper, copy Resource Pages 1 and 2 back to back. Do the same with Resource Pages 3 and 4. Copy one set of pages for each student. Cut apart each page on the solid line. Fold each page in half on the dotted line. Assemble the pages in numerical order, 1 (cover page) to 16. Place two staples in the center of each to make a passport booklet. Place these in a suitcase or backpack, along with pencils, a Bible, and the copies of Student Leaflet 1. Greet students as they arrive.

Say Welcome! We are studying Delivered: God’s Gifts of Grace. We will investigate Bible accounts that show the wonderful ways God works in our lives. Today, we will study a Bible account that tells of something very great that God wants for each one of us.

Ask Raise your hand if you have ever visited a US national park, monument, or a national historic landmark. (Let the students respond.) What place did you visit? (Let the students respond.)

Say Every lesson, we will visit a US national park, monument, or historic landmark. These destinations will help connect us to the theme of each Bible lesson. We will call each place a “connection destination.”

Say This lesson’s connection destination is the Ellis Island Museum of

Materials Needed

1 Opening
Director CD
United States map
20 Push pins or self-adhesive flags
White cardstock paper for passports, 2 sheets per student
Passport pages (see Resource Pages 1–4 or Director CD)
Stapler and staples
Copies of “A Responsive Reading on God’s Gifts of Grace” (Director CD or p. 12)
Suitcase or backpack

2 God Speaks
Suitcase or backpack
Student Leaflet 1
Bibles

3 We Live
Activity Page 1
Bibles
Suitcase or backpack
Craft foam (pastel colors)
Hole punch
Embroidery floss (dark colors)
Black permanent markers
Christian symbol stickers, small alphabet stickers (optional)

4 Closing
Director CD
Passports and Passport Pockets (see Opening & We Live)
Suitcase or backpack
Cross stamp and ink, cross stickers, or marker; you will use these with the passports for each lesson
Lesson 1

Immigration/Statue of Liberty National Monument.

Direct the students’ attention to the US map. If you don’t have a big map on the wall, use a computer or tablet to connect to a digital map.

Ask In what city and state are Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty located? (New York, New York.)

Say They are located in the New York Harbor just west of New York City. Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty welcomed millions of immigrants to the United States. Today, we will learn that Jesus welcomes children to come to Him. Before we do, let’s begin with song and prayer.

Ask a volunteer to find the location of New York Harbor on the map and put a push pin or self-adhesive flag there.

Worship

Sing “Father Welcomes” (LSB 605; AGPS 95) or “Amazing Grace” (LSB 744; Director CD 1). Some song recordings are available on the Director CD.

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

Hand out copies of “A Responsive Reading on God’s Gifts of Grace” (p. 12).

Say Every week, we will use this reading to learn more about the wonderful gifts God gives and the ways in which He gives them to us. Use the reading together.

Connection Destination

Roll out your suitcase or backpack and open it. Bring out one of the passports you have assembled.

Ask What is a passport? (An official document that allows you to enter a country outside of where you are a citizen.) Hand out passports and pencils.

Say This is your passport for each lesson. Print your name on the line on its cover. (Assist students with writing as needed, or provide preprinted name stickers for students to place on their passport.)

Turn to page 2 to find out about this lesson’s connection destination. Have a volunteer read the information on page 2.

Web Activity: Locate information on the National Park Service website about Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty. Show photos to your class.

Say One of the first things people from other countries coming to New York see is the Statue of Liberty. This monument welcomes people to the US In today’s Bible account, we will see that Jesus welcomes people of all ages and blesses us all with His love and forgiveness.

Collect the passports and put them in the suitcase for use later.

Offering Encourage the students as they give their offerings. If you have a special summer mission project, introduce it today. A mission project is explained on the Director CD.

Pray Dear Jesus, You are our Savior. As we study Your Word today, help us learn about the ways through which You welcome us to be with You forever. In Your name we pray. Amen.
Celebrate
Recognize student birthdays, Baptism birthdays, and significant family events in your routine manner.

2 God Speaks (20 minutes)

God Teaches about His Gifts of Grace

To Prepare:
Place your Bible and copies of Student Leaflet 1 in the suitcase (backpack). Hand out Bibles. Take your Bible out of the suitcase.

Say
Today’s Bible account is found in both the Gospel of Matthew and the Gospel of Luke. Let’s read both accounts to discover the most information we can about this event in the ministry of Jesus.

Help the boys locate Matthew 19:13–15. Help the girls locate Luke 18:15–17. Mix younger and older students together so that they can help one another with the reading.

Boys, let’s read out loud together the Bible account from Matthew 19.
Next, direct the girls to read out loud together Luke 18:15–17.

Tell us about Jesus’ actions in the Bible account. (Jesus welcomed infants and children to Him and blessed them.)

Ask
Who tried to prevent the children from coming to Jesus? (The disciples.)

Why did the disciples scold and try to prevent (hinder) those who were bringing the children to Jesus? (They didn’t want to bother Jesus with young children.) Reread out loud Luke 18:17.

What did Jesus mean by these words? (Children are trusting and dependent upon others to help them. Jesus wanted the disciples, as well as us, to trust Him and to rely on Him for all things, especially for our salvation.)

Review
Distribute Student Leaflet 1. Have your students do the Search & Know activity on page 4. Go over the answers together.

Across: (2) Love; (3) Kingdom of God; (4) Disciples; (7) Hinder
(8) Children; (9) Jesus

Down: (1) Blessings; (5) Infants; (6) Welcomed; (7) Hands

Bible Words

[Jesus says,] “Let the little children come to Me.” Matthew 19:14

Locate the Bible Words on the Student Leaflet. Have the students read them out loud with you.

Say
With these words, Jesus welcomes even infants to come to Him. Jesus invites children (and adults too) to come to Him because we are all God’s children. Divide the students into two groups. Assign the first group the first part of the verse, “Let the little children.” Assign the second group the second part of the verse, “Come to Me.” After you say, “Jesus says,” point to the first group and direct them to say their verse part. Then
point to the second group and direct them to complete the verse. Have everyone join you as you say “Matthew 19:14” at the end. Do this several times; then switch the verse part each group says so that the students learn the entire verse. Direct the students to stand up to say their part and sit down when it is not their part.

3 We Live (25 minutes)

Use these activities to help the children grow in their understanding of what the Bible means for their lives. Choose the ones that work best with your class.

Applying God’s Gifts of Grace

To Prepare: Have copies of Activity Page 1, Bibles, and pencils ready to use.

Say When immigrants to the United States entered the country through Ellis Island, each person was checked to make sure that he or she did not have any diseases. Most people who had purchased a first- or second-class ticket easily passed through Ellis Island. Steerage or third-class passengers who had traveled in crowded and unsanitary conditions in the bottom of the ship often had a more difficult time gaining entrance to the United States.

Ask If we had to stand before God on our own for His inspection, would we be accepted into His kingdom? (Let students ponder this question.) On our own, we would not pass God’s inspection. On our own, we would not be able to enter God’s kingdom because we are all diseased. What is the disease that each of us have? (Sin.)

Say The original sin we are born with and the actual sins that we commit separate us from God. On our own, we cannot enter God’s kingdom. God sent His one and only Son, Jesus, to defeat sin and Satan for us.

Ask How did Jesus win the victory for us over these enemies? (Jesus died on the cross to pay the price we owed God for our sins. Jesus rose from the dead, conquering sin, eternal death, and Satan for us.)

Say God has some very special ways He makes us His own and gives us all His wonderful blessings. The ways are called God’s Means of Grace. Open the suitcase or backpack and hand out Activity Page 1, along with Bibles and pencils. Read the first two paragraphs at the top of the Activity Page. Let students work in small groups. Help locate the Scripture references, as needed. After the students have identified the Means of Grace associated with each Bible verse, come together again as a class and review each one.

Romans 1:16—the Gospel or God’s Word.

Students may have drawn a Bible to illustrate this Means of Grace.

Ask What is the Gospel? (The Gospel is the Good News that Jesus died and rose so that we might have forgiveness of sins, eternal life, and salvation.)

Say After Adam and Eve first sinned, God immediately gave the promise that He would send a Savior (Genesis 3:15). God wants all people to know Him and to be a part of His kingdom.
Acts 26:18—Absolution or forgiveness.
This was probably the toughest one to identify. The word **absolution** means “forgiveness.” God gives pastors the authority to forgive (absolve) us of our sins in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Encourage students to share their drawings of forgiveness.


**Ask**  What do you see and hear when someone is baptized? (We see the water and hear God’s Word spoken.)

**Say**  Christian Baptism applies water “in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” (Matthew 28:19). This is the way that Jesus commanded His disciples to baptize. In Baptism, God washes a person’s sins away and makes him or her a member of His kingdom forever. In Baptism, we become a child of God and a part of His family. Encourage students to share their Baptism illustrations.

Matthew 26:26–28—Holy Communion.

**Ask**  At Holy Communion or the Lord’s Supper, what do you see and hear? (We hear the pastor speak the words of Jesus, “Take and eat, the body of Christ given for you. Take and drink, the blood of Christ shed for you for the remission of sins.” At the Lord’s Supper, we see the bread and the wine.)

**Say**  At Holy Communion, believers share Jesus’ body and blood in the consecrated bread and wine and receive God’s gifts of the forgiveness of sins and strengthening of faith.

Encourage students to share their Holy Communion drawings.

Write the word **sacrament** on the board; then read the section below.

A sacrament is something holy and blessed by God. Three conditions have to be met for something to be considered a sacrament in our church. It must be instituted by God and have something about it that you can see. It must offer the forgiveness of sins. Let’s do some actions to help us remember. Instituted by God (point up to the sky), something you can see (put your hands up to your eyes like binoculars), and offer forgiveness (wipe your hands like a clean slate then make a cross with your fingers). Repeat these actions to review with students.

Craft—Passport Pocket

**To Prepare:** Cut two 6½ × 7-inch rectangles of craft foam for each student. Around three sides of each piece, punch evenly-spaced holes ¾-inch away from the outer edge of the foam. Cut a 36-inch length of dark-colored 6-strand embroidery floss for each student. Tape one end of the floss to the bottom piece of foam close to the top of one of the vertical row of holes.

**Say**  Let’s make a passport pocket for each of your passports.

Hand out two pieces of prepared craft foam to each student, with the embroidery floss already attached. Show the students how to bring the length of floss up and out of the top hole on whatever side of the foam it is attached. Then demonstrate how to bring the floss out of the hole below the first hole by guiding the floss around the edge of the foam and then bringing the end of the floss down through the second hole. Continue in the same way all around the three punched sides of the foam. Help students tape the end of the floss to the inside of the pocket near the top hole on the opposite side of the foam.
where the floss began. Provide permanent markers so that students can print
their name on their passport pocket. Or provide Christian foam stickers and
alphabet stickers to place their names and to decorate the front of the pocket.
Give the students their passports to place inside their finished pockets.

4 Closing (5 minutes)

To Prepare: Gather the Director CD and the passport pockets (with passports). Also have the suitcase (backpack), cross stamp and ink, cross stickers, or marker ready for use.

Sing  “Father Welcomes” (LSB 605; AGPS 95) or “Jesus Loves the Little Children” (LOSP, p. 94; Director CD 7).

Direct the students to take out their passports and open them to page 2.

Ask  What connection destination did we visit earlier today? (Ellis Island Museum of Immigration and the Statue of Liberty National Monument.)

Say  Today we visited the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island, which welcomed many immigrants to the United States.

Ask  How does God welcome us in His kingdom? (God welcomes us through His Means of Grace.) What are the Means of Grace? (The Means of Grace are divinely given ways that God delivers His grace and forgiveness.) Throughout this course, we will talk about these Means of Grace: God’s Word, Absolution, Holy Baptism, and Holy Communion. Review the three qualifications to be a sacrament by doing the actions from the earlier section. To many people, the Statue of Liberty is a monument of freedom. As Christians, what might we choose as our freedom monument? (We might choose the cross because it is there that Jesus died to free us from our sins. The empty tomb might also be included as it is there that Jesus rose from the dead.)

Use your cross stamp and ink, cross stickers, or a marker to place a cross on page 2 of each student’s passport. Direct the students to place their passport into the pocket they made earlier. Collect these pockets and put them into your suitcase for use next time.

Pray  Dear heavenly Father, thank You for welcoming us into Your kingdom. Thank You for blessing us with Your love, forgiveness, faith, a new eternal life, and a home in heaven. Help us to remember that our salvation comes only through faith in Your Son, Jesus. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

As each person leaves, say, God wants you to be part of His family.

Living the Faith

Many immigrants and refugees from other countries continue to enter the United States today. Encourage the students to pray that these new arrivals have a smooth transition to life here. Pray also for any new arrivals who may not be asking God to help them to know Him as the true God. Pray that they would come to know Jesus as their Savior. If you have new immigrants or refugees in your community or congregation, encourage the students to make welcome cards for them. Present the cards in person, or send them to the new families through the appropriate channels.