

6

I Believe

Grace
We allow God to transform us.

POWER TEXT

"Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Who is he, sir?' the man asked. 'Tell me so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said, 'You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you.' Then the man said, 'Lord, I believe,' and he worshiped him" (John 9:35-38).

KEY REFERENCES

- John 9
- *The Desire of Ages*, chap. 51, pp. 470-475
- Student story on page 72 of this guide

OUR BELIEFS

- No. 4, The Son
- No. 20, The Sabbath
- No. 10, The Experience of Salvation

OBJECTIVES

The students will:

- **Know** that Jesus is the Son of God.
- **Feel** grateful for God's matchless grace and love for us.
- **Respond** by telling others who Jesus is.

POWERPOINT

We accept God's grace when we believe in Jesus.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

Jesus' disciples inquire into whose sin caused a man to be born blind. Jesus replies neither, but so that God could be glorified. Jesus proceeds to heal the man on Sabbath by putting mud on his eyes. The Pharisees are furious. After questioning the healed man and his parents, the Pharisees throw the man out of the temple. Jesus later hears about this and finds the man. Jesus tells him He is the Son of God. The healed man believes in Jesus and worships Him.

This is a lesson about grace.

Jesus asks us today if we believe in Him as the Son of God. We need to acknowledge Him as our Lord. When we accept Him for who He really is, the Lord of our lives, we can receive the abundance of grace that Jesus offers.

Teacher Enrichment

"It was generally believed by the Jews that sin is punished in this life. Every affliction was regarded as the penalty of some wrongdoing, either of the sufferer himself or of his parents. It is true that all suffering results from the transgression of God's law, but this truth had become perverted. Satan, the author of sin and all its results, had led men to look upon disease and death as proceeding from God,—as punishment arbitrarily inflicted on account of sin. Hence, one upon whom some great affliction or calamity had fallen had the additional burden of being regarded as a great sinner.

"Thus the way was prepared for the Jews to reject Jesus. He who 'hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows' was looked upon by the Jews as 'stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted;' and they hid their faces from Him. Isa. 53:4, 3.

"God had given a lesson designed to prevent this. The history of Job had shown that suffering is inflicted by Satan, and is overruled by God for purposes of mercy. But Israel did not understand the lesson. The same error for which God had reproved the friends of Job was repeated by the Jews in their rejection of Christ" (The Desire of Ages, *p. 471).*

Welcome

Welcome students at the door and direct them to their seats. Ask them how their week has been. Encourage learners to study their Sabbath School lesson regularly, and use several minutes to debrief students on the previous week's lesson. Ask: **What was the most interesting part of the Bible story? What activity did you find the most helpful? Which activity was the most fun?** Invite students to share their experiences and/or the handiworks they created for Sabbath School during the week. (The leader should be familiar with the previous lesson to be able to direct the discussion.) This is also a good time to have students recite the power text.

Have students begin the readiness activity of your choice. »

Program notes

LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
Welcome	Ongoing	Greet students at the door. Ask about their week.	
1 Readiness Activities	10-15	*A. Daily Belief* *B. Strong Foundation* *C. Sightless Eyes*	Bibles, paper, pencils, white/chalkboard, markers/chalk Bibles, paper, pencils Bibles, blindfolds, paper, pencils
* Prayer and Praise	15-20	See page 67. Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.	songbooks, world map, pushpins, offering plate/basket
2 Bible Lesson	15-20	Introducing the Bible Story Experiencing the Story Exploring the Bible	 Bibles, clay Bibles, board, marker
3 Applying the Lesson	10-15	*Scenarios*	
4 Sharing the Lesson	10-15	*Healing the World*	world map, plastic bandages, pens
* Closing		Prayer and Closing Comments Reminder to Parents Coming Up Next Week	

1

READINESS ACTIVITIES

Select the activity or activities that are most appropriate for your situation.

A

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ paper
- ☐ pencils
- ☐ white/chalkboard
- ☐ markers/chalk

Daily Belief

Say: **Please write a list of as many things as you can think of that you believe will work for you every day.** (hair dryer, pens, bicycle, refrigerator)

When the students have completed their lists, say: **Let's share our lists and write them on the board.**

Debriefing

Ask: **How often do you worry about these things not working? Do they ever stop working? How is this like your faith in Jesus? Why do you believe in Him and who He says He is? Let's say our power text, John 9:35-38,**

"Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Who is he, sir?' the man asked. 'Tell me so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said, 'You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you.' Then the man said, 'Lord, I believe,' and he worshiped him" (John 9:35-38).

Say: **Just like the man in the verse,**

We accept God's grace when we believe in Jesus.

Accommodations for students with special needs

Allow students with special needs who experience difficulty with this activity to work with a partner who could assist them.

B

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ paper
- ☐ pencils

Strong Foundation

Ask students to draw a detailed skyscraper on a piece of paper with their eyes closed. They can open their eyes when they are finished drawing.

Debriefing

Say: **How safe would it be to live in that building? How would that building do in an earthquake state or country? Jesus asks us to build our lives on Him. To do that, we must believe in Him. Let's say our power text, John 9:35-38:**

"Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Who is he, sir?' the man asked. 'Tell me so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said, 'You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you.' Then the man said, 'Lord, I believe,' and he worshiped him" (John 9:35-38).

Just like the man in the verse,

We accept God's grace when we believe in Jesus.

Prayer and Praise

C

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ blindfolds
- ☐ paper
- ☐ pencils

Sightless Eyes

Blindfold each student as they enter the room (or ask them to keep their eyes closed) and have them sit down. Give each student paper and pencil and have them write down any sounds they hear and identify people's voices.

Debriefing

Ask: **What sounds did you notice? Was it easy or hard to identify people's voices? What senses did you rely on when you couldn't see? How did you feel while listening? How did it help to imagine you were blind? Let's say our power text, John 9:35-38:**

"Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Who is he, sir?' the man asked. 'Tell me so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said, 'You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you.' Then the man said, 'Lord, I believe,' and he worshiped him" (John 9:35-38).

The man in this text had personally experienced the touch of Jesus. That touch healed his blindness and caused him to see. Just like this man,

We accept God's grace when we believe in Jesus.

Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). If they have given you permission, share one or two special items from students' Bible study during the week. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special, warm greeting to all visitors.

Suggested Songs

"When I Look Into Your Holiness" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 18)
"Open Our Eyes" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 149)
"Isn't He" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 50)
"It's About Grace" (see music on page 152)

Mission

YOU NEED:
- ☐ world map
- ☐ pushpins

Use *Adventist Mission* for youth and adult (go to www.juniorpowerpoints.org and click on MISSION) or another mission report available to you. Using a world map, have the students identify and mark with pushpins the location where the mission story is taking place.

Offering

YOU NEED:
- ☐ offering plate/basket

Say: **Bringing an offering of money is a way to worship God. It is like a present that we give God in response to who He is and what He has done for us. To help us remember that worship is something we give to God we are collecting our money in this gift box.**

Prayer

Have students form a circle. Ask them each to say short sentence prayers, expressing their belief in God and thanking Him for all that He does in their lives. You may model this by being the first to pray something like this:
Dear Jesus, I believe You are the Son of God. Thank You for coming to live in our world. I praise You for all you have done in my life and for all that you continue to do for me. Amen.

Close with a prayer for the students' joys and sorrows, for the birthday and other special event celebrants, as well as for the visitors.

2

BIBLE LESSON

Introducing the Bible Story

Say: **What are some things that you believe in, even though you can't see them?** (wind, electricity, radio waves, sound, other planets, etc.) **What makes it easy/hard to believe without seeing? Just as there is evidence to believe in the things you mentioned, so there are many things all around that demonstrate the presence of Jesus. When Jesus was living on earth, He gave the people many opportunities to believe in Him. We have that same choice today.**

We accept God's grace when we believe in Jesus.

YOU NEED:

- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ clay

Experiencing the Story

Say: **While I read John 9, please listen carefully to the story because after the reading, you will be illustrating a particular detail or section from it, using modeling clay.** After the reading, give each student a ball of clay or modeling dough. Say: **In our story Jesus used mud to heal a blind man on the Sabbath. I would like you to make something with the clay that represents a part of this story.** Once the students completed the task, say: **Please share your clay creations with a partner. Try to guess which part of the story your partner illustrated.** Allow two minutes for the pair sharing.

Ask: **Why did Jesus keep healing people on the Sabbath when it made the Pharisees so upset? How did the Jews react when Jesus declared Himself the Light of the world? What was the wrong and customary belief of the Jews about suffering?** (Share with students from Teacher Enrichment section.) **What do you think about the way the blind man answered the Pharisees' questions? Why did it enrage them so?** (They felt humiliated.) **Why did Jesus look for the healed man after he'd been thrown out of the synagogue? Why do you think it is so important for us to recognize Jesus as the Son of God?** (It is because of His dying on the cross that we are forgiven of our sins, and able to spend eternity with Him.) **Would you have believed Him if He hadn't performed any miracles? Why or why not? How are we sometimes like the characters in the story? Can you identify yourself with a character in this story? What has happened in your life that has been used to glorify God?**

We accept God's grace when we believe in Jesus.

3

APPLYING THE LESSON

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ white/chalkboard
- ☐ markers/chalk

Exploring the Bible

Beforehand, write the following texts (but not the names in parentheses) on the board. Divide the students into 10 groups, or give more than one verse to each student. Say: **Find the texts and discover who is speaking and who they believe Jesus is.**

1. Luke 1:30-35 (angel)
2. Luke 2:25-32 (Simeon)
3. Matthew 3:17; 17:5 (God the Father)
4. Mark 1:1 (Mark)
5. John 1:34 (John)
6. John 1:49 (Nathanael)
7. John 11:24-27 (Martha)
8. Matthew 14:29-33 (disciples)
9. Mark 8:29 (Peter)
10. Mark 15:39 (Roman soldier)

It is interesting to note that Jesus always referred to Himself as the Son of man, rather than the Son of God. Why do you think that is? (One reason is to show that God came in the flesh, as a human, to save us from our sins.)

Ask: **What did all of these people believe about Jesus?** (He was the Son of God.) **Let's say our power text, John 9:35-38:**

"Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Who is he, sir?' the man asked. 'Tell me so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said, 'You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you.' Then the man said, 'Lord, I believe,' and he worshiped him" (John 9:35-38).

Just like them,

We accept God's grace when we believe in Jesus.

Accommodation for students with special needs
Have students with certain learning disabilities and those with visual impairments sit close to the board for this activity. Alternatively, prepare in advance for these students a handout with the list of Bible references and questions.

Scenarios

Read and discuss the following scenarios with your students.

1. **You have become friends with Alexander. Alexander's religion teaches about God, but not Jesus as God. They believe Jesus was a good man, a prophet. One day Alexander asks you why you believe Jesus was the Son of God. He wants to know what's so important about believing that Jesus is God if you just live your life by good morals and try to help people like Jesus did. What do you say to your friend?**
2. **Trisha's mom died a year ago. She still misses her a lot. Before Trisha's mom died her dad never attended church, but now he has started coming with her and is taking Bible studies. Trisha tells you that she still has angry feelings with God for letting her mom die. What can you say to Trisha that might let her see how God can be glorified in this situation?**

Ask: **How do you feel knowing that you can share with your friends about your beliefs? What are some ways that you worship Jesus? What things do you do that show you "believe" in Jesus?**

We accept God's grace when we believe in Jesus.

4 SHARING THE LESSON

Healing the World

YOU NEED:
- ☐ world map
- ☐ plastic bandages
- ☐ pens

Invite students to share with the class if they had the opportunity last week to tell others of their belief in God. Ask: **How can you describe your belief in God? What about your belief in Jesus makes you want to share it with someone else? Did you have a chance to share your beliefs with someone last week? What did you learn from your experience of talking about your faith in Jesus?**

Talk with the students about places in the world where poverty, war, violence, and godlessness abound, and point the countries out on the map. Give each student a plastic bandage and ask them to write a prayer for the world on it. This can be things like "Help people in Thailand know You" or "Take away war in _____." Then ask students to stick their bandage to the map.

Debriefing

Ask: **How can you continue to believe in Jesus and to worship Him even when you cannot see a way out from a difficult situation?**

Say: **When we accept God's grace and worship Him, the people around us will recognize that we believe in Him. Let's pray that as we continue to worship and demonstrate our belief in Jesus others would better understand and accept His grace.**

We accept God's grace when we believe in Jesus.

(Adapted from *The Children's Worker's Encyclopedia of Bible Teaching Ideas: New Testament* [Loveland, Colo.: Group Publishing, 1997], pp. 84, 85.)

Closing

Prayer and closing comments:

Say: **Dear Jesus, thank You for loving us so much that You came to live here among us. Please help us to believe and worship You as God. Give us opportunities to share with others Who You are so that they may accept You and receive Your grace. Amen.**

Reminder to parents:

Say: **Check out the student Bible study guide to find Parents' Pages for your use in family worship, or however you wish to use them to spiritually guide your children. You may listen to the podcast of the lesson online at www.juniorpowerpoints.org/podcast.php?channel=1.**

Coming up next week:

Say: **Seeds are scattered. We find in God's Word everything we need to live according to His will.**

Notes

Student lesson

I Believe

Has anyone done anything so wonderful for you that you couldn't help loving them, even though others didn't like them? The blind man in our story today probably couldn't help wondering what was wrong with the Pharisees for doubting that Jesus was who He said He was. After all, Jesus had restored his sight!

The insulting words of the Jewish leaders still rang in the ears of Jesus' disciples as they walked away from the temple with Him. Why did Jesus rebuke them? Didn't He realize how much He needed their support if He was to become king? Jesus slowed His pace, then stopped near a blind man begging in the street. The disciples asked Him, "Who sinned, Master, this man or his parents?"

Most Jewish people believed that any disability, any sickness, was the direct result of God's punishing some sin. If a baby was born with a birth defect, people believed that the parents had done something bad and God had sent this as a punishment. When people got sick, their friends believed they had sinned and God was making them suffer for it.

"Neither this man nor his parents sinned," Jesus answered. Wanting them to understand that sickness and defects do not come from God, He continued, "This happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him" (John 9:3). Then Jesus did something unusual. He bent down, spit on the ground, and made a muddy paste. The blind man must have been surprised when Jesus smeared the mud over his eyes. Jesus said, "Go, wash in the Pool of Siloam" (verse 7).

The man got up and went to the Pool of Siloam and washed the mud off his eyes. Imagine him opening his eyes slowly. Light enters. He sees the sun sparkling on the surface of the water. He looks at his fingers, mud still clinging to them.

"I can see!" he exclaims as he jumps up from the poolside. He leaps into the air. "I can see!" he yells. "Hey, look at me. I can see." Never having seen the way home before, he still knows the way, and walks toward his house calling to everyone, "I can see."

His neighbors heard him coming before they saw him. "Isn't this the blind man who begs in the street?" someone asked.

"No, it can't be," another replied. "It just looks like him." But the blind beggar settled their confusion. "It's me. I can see now."

"But how?"

Then he told them.

They took him to the Jewish leaders, where he repeated his marvelous story. The Jewish leaders became angry. They didn't care that a blind man could now see. They cared only to point out that Jesus had broken their rules. "This man is not from God," they said, "for he does not keep the Sabbath."

But some of the Pharisees said, "How can a sinner do such miraculous things?" So the two groups of Jewish leaders argued. Finally they called in the man's parents, because they didn't believe that he had been born blind.

His parents said, "This is our son. We know he was born blind, but we don't know how he got his sight. Ask him. He's old enough to answer for himself." They knew that the Jewish leaders would throw them out of the synagogue if they said anything to support Jesus.

Once again the Jews spoke to the man. "Give glory to God by telling the truth. We know this man is a sinner."

"Whether he is a sinner or not, I don't know," the man said. "One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!"

"We don't even know where he comes from."

"Now that is remarkable! You don't know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly person who does his will. Nobody has ever heard of opening the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, He could do nothing."

"How dare you lecture us!" they exclaimed and threw him out.

When Jesus heard that this man had been thrown out of the synagogue, He went to find him. "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" Jesus asked him.

"Who is he, sir? Tell me so that I may believe in him," the man answered.

"You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you."

"Lord, I believe." The man looked into the face of Jesus, then fell at His feet and worshiped Him (verses 24-38).

The news of this incredible event spread throughout the city. Many people believed in Jesus because of it.

KEY REFERENCES

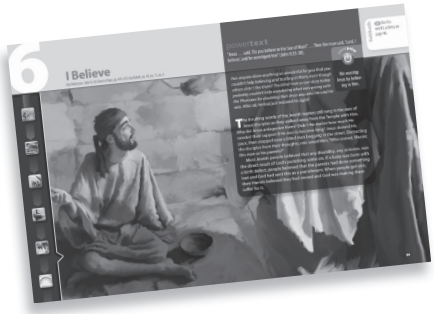
- John 9
- *The Desire of Ages*, chap. 51, pp. 470-475
- Our Beliefs nos. 4, 20, 10

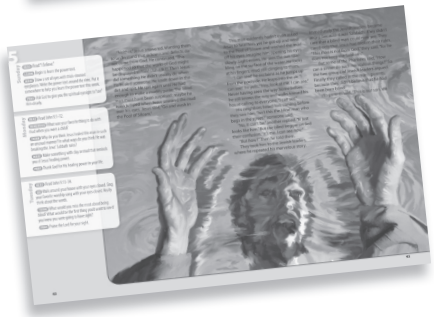
POWER TEXT

"Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Who is he, sir?' the man asked. 'Tell me so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said, 'You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you.' Then the man said, 'Lord, I believe,' and he worshiped him" (John 9:35-38).

POWER POINT

We accept God's grace when we believe in Jesus.







Sabbath

DO Do the activity on page 47.

Sunday

READ Read John 9:1-3 and this week's lesson, "I Believe."

MAKE Draw a set of eyes with thick-rimmed eyeglasses. Write the power text around the rims.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to give you the spiritual eyesight to "see" Him clearly.

Monday

READ Read John 9:4-12.

THINK Why do you think Jesus healed this man in such an unusual manner? In what ways do you think He was breaking the Sabbath rules of the Jews?

ASK Ask an adult about the meaning of spiritual insight.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Thank God for His grace and His healing power.

Tuesday

READ Read John 9:13-34.

DO Sing a hymn or song about God's grace with your eyes closed. Really think about the words.

THINK What would you miss the most about being blind? What would be the first thing you'd want to see?

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Praise the Lord for your eyesight and ask Him to see others as He sees them.

Wednesday

READ Read John 9:35-41.

SHARE Find someone with whom you can share your belief in God.

THINK What did Jesus mean by telling the Pharisees that they were blind?

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God for opportunities to share your beliefs.

Thursday

READ Read Romans 1:21.

THINK In comparison to the man's newfound physical eyesight, how was the Pharisees' spiritual insight?

MAKE Make something with clay or mud that reminds you of Jesus' grace and His healing power.

DO Choose ways you will allow God's grace to transform your spiritual insight.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Thank Jesus for His saving grace.

Friday

READ Read John 5:24.

SAY Say the power text by memory.

ACT Act out the story with your family for worship.

TALK Take turns with your family telling why you believe in Jesus. How have you experienced His grace? How does believing in Jesus make a difference in your life?

SING Sing songs about God's love, particularly ones about God's saving grace available to us thanks to Jesus.

PRAY Praise God for His grace and for being near to all those who believe in Him.