

1

Grace
We find comfort in God's grace.

POWER TEXT

"And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, 'The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation'" (Exodus 34:6, 7).

KEY REFERENCES

- Isaiah 14:12-16
- Ezekiel 28:11-19
- Revelation 12:7-9
- *The Great Controversy*, chap. 29, pp. 492-504
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 7, pp. 109-112
- Student story on page 22 of this guide

OUR BELIEFS

- No. 19, The Law of God
- No. 8, The Great Controversy
- No. 4, The Son

OBJECTIVES

The students will:

- **Know** that God's grace disproves Satan's charges against God.
- **Feel** a deeper assurance of God's grace to them.
- **Respond** by accepting and thanking God for His grace.

Lucifer's War

POWERPOINT

God's law of love exposes Satan's lies.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

This Bible lesson explores the beginnings of the great controversy between God and Satan. It reveals the ambitions of Lucifer to be like God and the consequences of Satan's rebellion to himself and his followers. God's grace is revealed to be the answer to the false accusations that Lucifer made against God by revealing God's character as love.

This is a lesson about grace.

God's grace is His loving, undeserved actions toward His creations. Lucifer did not deserve forgiveness, yet God offered it. The human family does not deserve God's forgiveness, yet He offers it. God has shown that Satan's charges against Him are false.

Teacher Enrichment

"Because he was a created being Lucifer was distinctly inferior to the Father and the Son, in whom was life original, unborrowed, and underived. . . . Satan was jealous of Jesus. . . . In thus aspiring to the power which it was the prerogative of Christ alone to wield, he fell from his exalted position, and became the devil. It is incorrect to say that God created the devil. God created a beautiful angel, holy and undefiled, but this angel made a devil out of himself" (*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 4, p. 676).

"For the good of the entire universe through ceaseless ages, [Satan] must more fully develop his principles, that his charges against the divine government might be seen in their true light by all created beings, and that the justice and mercy of God and the immutability of His law might be forever placed beyond all question" (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 42).

For further study, read *The Story of Redemption*, pages 13-19, 47; *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pages 33-43.

What motivates my service to God? What effect do I think the conflict between God and Satan has on the watching universe? How has God's grace and mercy touched my life?

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	10-15	*A. Lies*	seven to nine large sheets of paper; tacks or tape; red pencils, markers, or stickers
		B. Feathers in the Wind	two bags of confetti, shredded paper, feathers, leaves, or other free-floating material; two adults; two benches or chairs
* Prayer & Praise	15-20	See page 17. Prayer & Praise may be used at any time during the program.	songbooks, offering plate/basket, world map, pushpins, letters to parents (p. 144)
2 Bible Lesson	15-20	Introducing the Bible Story	war pictures
		Experiencing the Story	one or two storytellers, sound effects, books by Ellen White OR excerpts (p. 145)
		Exploring the Bible	Bibles, three types of beans
3 Applying the Lesson	10-15	*More Lies*	
4 Sharing the Lesson	10-15	*Passing On God's Grace*	beans
* Closing		A. Prayer and Closing Comments	
		B. Reminder to Parents	
		C. Coming Up Next Week	

1

READINESS ACTIVITIES

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

A

YOU NEED:

- ☐ seven to nine large sheets of paper
- ☐ tacks OR tape
- ☐ red pencils, markers OR stickers

Lies

Before class, write the following statements (or similar ones relevant to your students' background and culture) on the sheets of paper and post them around the room.

It's always wrong to tell a lie.

A little white lie never hurt anyone.

A lie is OK if it makes someone feel good.

Telling children that there is a Santa Claus and an Easter bunny is acceptable to share.

I've been hurt by someone lying to me or about me.

(Add one or two of your own.)

As the students arrive, give them each a red marker. Tell them to walk around the room and read the statements on the wall. Have them each write their initials on the paper, below any statement they agree with.

Debriefing

Based on the number of signatures on each sheet, discuss the group's opinions about lying. Ask: **Does God forgive people who lie? Why or why not? Even if He does forgive the lie, what can't He do?** (He cannot change the consequences or aftereffects of the lie on the person or the others affected by it. God can't break His own laws to change consequences.) **What can He do?** (By His grace, He can heal us of the effects of the consequences through the life and death of His Son.) Say: **Let's say together our power text, Exodus 34:6, 7.**

"And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, 'The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation' " (Exodus 34:6, 7).

God forgives sin, but Satan will have to answer for His lies against God. The power point reminds that:

God's law of love exposes Satan's lies.

B

YOU NEED:

- ☐ two bags of confetti, shredded paper, feathers, leaves, OR other free-floating material
- ☐ two adults
- ☐ two benches OR chairs

Feathers in the Wind

Divide the class into two groups. Have two adult helpers each standing on a bench or chair in the middle of one of the groups. Tell the students that they are to catch as much confetti as possible before it hits the floor, but they may not pick it up from the floor. Give the adults the bags of confetti and have them throw the confetti high in the air. See which group catches the most confetti. Ask everyone to look at how much confetti is on the floor. Have everyone sit in a circle, then read or tell the story "Feathers in the Wind" (see next page).

Debriefing

Ask: **How did you feel trying to catch the confetti before it hit the ground? How did you feel when you saw how much was left on the ground? Of what does this story remind you?** (Satan's sin; Adam and Eve's sin) **Although God can forgive, what can He not do?** (change the consequences) **What does He do instead?** (offers His grace and redemption through the life and death of His Son) Say: **Let's say together our power text, Exodus 34:6, 7.**

"And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, 'The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation' " (Exodus 34:6, 7).

God forgives sin by His grace, but we all still suffer the consequences of sin. Our power point this week is:

God's law of love exposes Satan's lies.

(Both readiness activities adapted from *Group's Best Jr. High Meetings 2*, ed. Michael D. Warden [Loveland, Colorado: Thom Schulz Publications, Inc., 1989], pp. 210, 211. Used by permission.)

Prayer & Praise

Feathers in the Wind

One day a woman went to Francis of Assisi and confessed that she was guilty of spreading malicious gossip. She asked him what she could do to be forgiven. Francis told her to pluck a goose and lay one feather on the doorstep of each person she'd said malicious things about.

The woman went away hurriedly and did as she was instructed. She returned to Francis to ask the next step. He sent her back to gather each feather she had placed on the doorsteps. But she discovered that the feathers had blown all over town.

When she returned the second time, Francis said: "You may wish to repent, and that is good. But you can never recall the words that you have spoken. They have gone on their way, doing harm. You have committed a sin for which no amends can be made. Confess your sin to God and ask for His forgiveness, for God is the only one who can forgive you."

From *The Ten Commandments*, Learner Book, Affirm Series, copyright © 1984, Augsburg Publishing House.

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

"The Worship Song" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 26)
"Great Are You, Lord" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 25)
"I Will Sing of the Mercies of the Lord" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 15)
"My Peace" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 94)
"Micah 6:8" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 133)
"He Is the Lord" (*Praise Time*, no. 41)

Mission

YOU NEED:
- ☐ world map; pushpins
- ☐ letter to parents (p. 144)

Use *Adventist Mission for Youth and Adults* (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. Send a letter to the parents, informing them about the mission offering (see letter to parents on p. 144).

Offering

YOU NEED:
- ☐ offering plate/basket

Say: **Our offerings support the work of God around the world and help tell others the story of God's grace to each of us.**

Prayer

Before your prayer today, focus the students' attention on prayer as an extension of God's grace. He allows us 24 hours a day, seven days a week access to His throne. Focus on God's amazing gifts to His precious people. Using the power text, Exodus 34:6, 7, have the students praise God for the attributes mentioned. 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

YOU NEED:

- ☐ war pictures

Introducing the Bible Story

Display or distribute pictures of the devastation of war. Say: **War is something we associate with evil. It is not something we associate with heaven. In our lesson today we are going to learn about a time when there was war in heaven. The war was begun by one being's rebellion and lies about a gracious God. Today we will learn that**

God's law of love exposes Satan's lies.

YOU NEED:

- ☐ one or two storytellers
- ☐ sound effects
- ☐ books by Ellen White OR excerpts (p. 145)

Experiencing the Story

Arrange for one or two people (one of whom may be you) with strong voices to dramatically read or tell, using sound effects (dramatic music) if possible, the story of the war in heaven from *The Story of Redemption*, pages 13-19; or *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pages 33-43; or excerpts found on page 145 of this guide.

God's law of love exposes Satan's lies.

YOU NEED:
- □ Bibles
- □ three types of beans

Exploring the Bible

Distribute one of three kinds of beans to each student. Those with the same kind of beans should get together in one group. Once they have formed a "same bean" group, have the students give their group a name, and then within that group count off by threes.

Those with the same numbers should form a new group. Assign the group of number ones Isaiah 14:12-16; the group of number twos Ezekiel 28:11-19; and the group of number threes Revelation 12:7-9. Tell each of the new groups that they should read and discuss their passage. They should find evidence in their passage of the lies Satan told and the ways in which God exposed them. Allow time for the groups to work (with an adult facilitator, if possible). The students should then re-form with their "same bean" groups. They should report to this group the evidence they found in their study groups. Collect the beans.

Debriefing

Ask: **What were some of the lies Satan told?** (Possible answers: That God's law was restrictive and couldn't be kept, but if the angels broke it they wouldn't be forgiven, and they had gone too far to ask for forgiveness; it was unfair that Christ should get special honors; he, Lucifer, should be equal to or above God; the angels were smart enough to rule themselves without God's interference; if the angels followed him, he, Lucifer, would give them more freedom and a new and better government.)

What action did God take to stop Satan's lies? (He gave Satan a choice to repent, obey, and stay or to disobey and leave; He gave His Son as a sacrifice for humans. Jesus then fulfilled the requirements of the law so that all people who asked could be forgiven and restored to a relationship with God; He allowed Lucifer to carry out his plans so all the universe could see that he was lying.)

What does God's grace reveal about His character? In what way does grace prove that Satan's charges are false? (God sacrificed Himself in the form of Jesus to give us a choice. He gave Satan what He wanted and also what His law demanded. As a result we can be saved, and the universe will never have to suffer the consequences of sin again.)

Remember our power point:

God's law of love exposes Satan's lies.

Ask: **And what was Satan's big lie?** (God is unfair.) **But what do we learn about God? Let's say our power text again:**

"And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, 'The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation'" (Exodus 34:6, 7).

More Lies

Say: **There are all kinds of lies that Satan tells us about ourselves. Some examples are: (1) we aren't as good as others; (2) we are not as smart; (3) God loves us only if . . . ; (4) the things we do are too terrible for God to forgive us; (5) we're already pretty good and don't really need God's grace.**

Divide the students into groups of three and ask them to each share ways they may expose Satan's lies that they or someone they know may be believing.

Debriefing

Say: **God says He will never leave you nor forsake you.** Ask: **How does knowing that help expose this lie you may have believed?**

God's law of love exposes Satan's lies.

4

SHARING THE LESSON

YOU NEED:
- ☐ beans

Passing On God's Grace

Ask students to share if they had the opportunity during the past week to explain to someone that Lucifer's rebellion led to the great controversy between Christ and Satan. Ask: **How did you explain to someone how sin came into the world? What did you share about how all the sin and suffering in the world is a consequence of Lucifer's rebellion?**

Distribute the beans used in Exploring the Bible. Make sure that each person has a bean. Ask students to place their beans in a jar lid filled with cotton balls and sprinkled with water. Tell them to moisten the cotton each day until the bean begins to sprout. Ask them to show their sprouted bean to someone and explain how God's grace can take something dry and hard and turn it into something alive, green, and growing. In the same way He can take the sin and evil that have resulted from Satan's rebellion and lies, and through His forgiveness and grace bring new life into the hearts and lives of anyone who will accept Him.

Ask: **When you are tempted to doubt that God loves you or can forgive you, what thought/Bible promise can bring you hope and encouragement?** Say: **Let's repeat our power text again:**

"And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, 'The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation' " (Exodus 34:6, 7).

Remember,

God's law of love exposes Satan's lies.

Closing

Prayer and closing comments:

Stand in a circle with the students and encourage any who would like to express publicly their thanks to God for His wonderful grace. Close with a prayer of thanksgiving.

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: **Job is tested. God always loves us.**

Notes

Student lesson

Lucifer's War

When have you done something wrong but been afraid to admit it? How do you feel when you have to admit you are wrong? Is it easy to forgive other people when they make mistakes or lie about you? When Lucifer was in heaven he rebelled against God and told lies about Him.

As the angels gathered into the large hall for an important meeting, they learned that Lucifer had gone too far. He had claimed that he should be equal with God. *How could he even think such a thing?* many of the angels wondered.

God had called this meeting to address this very serious issue. Silence fell over the audience as God the Father addressed the assembly. Solemnly and with deep sadness in His voice God revealed to His beloved angels that someone in heaven had chosen to make false accusations against Him.

The angels were faced with an important decision. They were called to take a stand either on the side of God or on the side of Lucifer. They could choose to remain loyal to God, whose love and faithfulness they had experienced. Otherwise they would follow Lucifer into rebellion against God.

One of the first false claims made by Lucifer was that God's leadership was unfair. Lucifer became jealous that God the Father and God the Son did not include him in some of their councils. As the highest-ranking angel, Lucifer maintained that he should have a part in decision-making.

Furthermore, Lucifer claimed that God was too strict in asking that His angels obey His commands. Lucifer questioned God's authority, saying that the created beings should have complete freedom to do whatever they wanted.

Everyone listened intently as Michael began to speak. The loyal angels were waiting with anticipation, trusting that Michael might convince the rebels to repent. Michael reminded the angels that God had provided for all of their needs. Lucifer was the highest-ranking angel and had been the closest to God among all the angels. He had seen firsthand that God does not issue unfair commands. The Father asked only for obedience in response to His law of love.

Living according to the principles of God's law was simply the loving response of the created beings for everything they had received from the Father. God's desire was to provide for the well-being of the angels.

Yet if they chose not to live according to that law, problems would arise. It was clear that jealousy and pride had been the causes of Lucifer's rebellion. Unhappiness, discontent, and dissatisfaction were the natural consequences of rebellion against God's law of love.

God the Son entreated the angels to repent because the Father was gracious and willing to forgive them. God loved them in spite of what they had said and done. All they had to do was repent. Michael reminded the angels that, contrary to Lucifer's claims, they had always been free to decide.

By deciding to remain loyal to God and to obey His law, they would choose life. Everything good in their lives had come from God. He was the very source of their existence. Real joy, peace, and fulfillment were gifts they had received from the Father, and these were found only in Him. God was not trying to keep any good things from them. His laws were there only to protect them from evil and unhappiness. Yet God could not force His creations either to follow Him or to keep His gifts.

Lucifer and his angels were given many opportunities to accept God's forgiveness and to obey His law of love that was designed for their peace and happiness. But Lucifer couldn't be persuaded. He refused to repent. He chose to stand against God's law of love. Working hard to persuade other angels to follow him, he eventually was able to take one third of them to war against God's Son. Lucifer and his followers lost the battle and had to leave their heavenly home.

God stood at the gateway and watched them go. Oh, how He wanted their peace and happiness.

The Father and the Son had a plan in place for the salvation of everyone who would want to escape the life of sin and misery brought about by Lucifer's rebellion. God was willing to pay the greatest price to make sure that no one else would follow Lucifer into rebellion. The Son of God would sacrifice His own life to offer salvation and eternal life to everyone who would believe in Him and accept God's amazing grace.

KEY REFERENCES

- Isaiah 14:12-16
- Ezekiel 28:11-19
- Revelation 12:7-9
- *The Great Controversy*, chap. 29, pp. 492-504
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 7, pp. 109-112
- Our Beliefs, nos. 19, 8, 4

POWER TEXT

"And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, 'The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation'" (Exodus 34:6, 7).

POWER POINT

God's law of love exposes Satan's lies.







Sabbath

DO Do the activity on page 18.

Sunday

READ Read Ezekiel 28:11-13 and this week's story, "Lucifer's War."

LEARN Begin to memorize the power text.

PRAY Ask God for help in the battle against evil.

Monday

READ Read Ezekiel 28:14.

DISCOVER Whom does the king of Tyre symbolize? What do the gems represent?

THINK How did Lucifer's removal from heaven reflect God's grace?

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Thank God for His protection against evil.

Tuesday

READ Read Ezekiel 28:15-17.

THINK What caused the change in Lucifer?

COMPARE Sketch or describe Lucifer when he was a loyal angel and after he had turned against God.

REFLECT What in your life can cause you to turn away from God?

EXPLAIN Tell someone that sin and suffering in the world is a consequence of Lucifer's rebellion. Explain that Lucifer's rebellion in heaven led to the great controversy between Christ and Satan. This is why God sent His Son, Jesus, into our world to save us from sin under Satan's dominion and to offer us the gift of salvation.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to help you be grateful for His grace.

Wednesday

READ Read Isaiah 14:12-14.

CREATE This passage and the one in Ezekiel are called "laments." After looking up the word in a dictionary, create your own lament. Try setting it to music.

THINK What were some of Lucifer's desires? Why did those desires lead to sin? Describe them in a word.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Pray for protection against pride and selfishness.

Thursday

READ Read Revelation 12:7-9.

IDENTIFY What are other names for Michael?

WRITE In your Bible study journal,* record Lucifer's names (Matthew 10:25; 1 John 3:8; Revelation 2:9; Isaiah 14:12; Revelation 20:2).

THINK How do his names reflect his character?

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Thank God for the victory won by His grace.

Friday

READ Read Isaiah 9:6.

THINK How do these names prove that Lucifer lied about God? What is God really like?

DISCUSS At family worship, read and discuss the three passages about the war in heaven.

CREATE Together, draw, paint, or make a collage of God's grace.

SAY Repeat the power text aloud by memory.

PRAY Thank God for His grace, which exposes Satan's lies.

NOTE * Your Bible study journal is found at the back of your PowerPoints Bible study guide. If you need additional space, use a notebook or open a special file on your computer. Writing out your thoughts and ideas every time you study the Bible helps to engrain them in your mind.