

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Lectionary title 16: **The Mystery of the Messianic Grace***Old Testament: Isaiah 58:6-12* (NRSV, 1989)

⁶ Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? ⁷Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? ⁸Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the LORD shall be your rearguard. ⁹Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am. If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, ¹⁰ if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. ¹¹The LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. ¹²Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

New Testament: Matthew 20:1-16 (NRSV, 1989)

The Labourers in the Vineyard

¹ 'For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the labourers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. ³When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the market-place; ⁴and he said to them, "You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right." So they went. ⁵When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, "Why are you standing here idle all day?" ⁷They said to him, "Because no one has hired us." He said to them, "You also go into the vineyard." ⁸When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, "Call the labourers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first." ⁹When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. ¹⁰Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. ¹¹And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹²saying, "These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat." ¹³But he replied to one of them, "Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage?" ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?" ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first will be last.'

*General Concept: Jesus is the embodiment of God's grace.**Key Concepts in the Different Age Levels in Sunday School*N/K/YE: **Jesus shows God's love to us.**ME/OE: **Through Jesus, we know and experience God's love.**Y: **Jesus reveals the fullness of God's grace.**A: **Jesus is the embodiment of God's grace.**

Exegesis of the Biblical References

The practice of fasting has always been part of Israel's life, faith and religious tradition. The Israelites practice fasting either individually or communally as an expression of grieving or mourning or as a form of repentance and seeking forgiveness or as part of their worship ritual or as an expression of total reliance to God's grace. Whether fasting is done in private or as a community, it requires a sincere faith with a concrete corresponding action in the hope of receiving God's favor. Over time, however, fasting as a practice became a venue for some people to project their religiosity even as they continue with their sinful ways, ignoring the more important social and ethical implications of their faith in God.

After Israel has returned from their exile in Babylon and have settled back in their homeland, people began putting more emphasis on the ritual dimension of fasting. In response to this new development, the unknown prophet of the post exilic period (known to the scholars as Third Isaiah) began criticizing the kind of fasting that people are practicing and the hypocrisy behind such practice as he sees the contradiction between the rituals undertaken by the rich Jews and the denial of basic care, compassionate assistance and support for the needy especially for those fellow Jews (*kababayan*) who are working for them. The prophet wants to remind the Israelites about the true essence of fasting that God expects from them - providing food for the hungry and clothes for those with nothing to wear especially during the winter. In other words, Isaiah is proclaiming the kind of fasting that God intends them to do and that is to become God's instrument of grace and source of hope especially for their fellow Israelites who are poor and weak. It also illustrates one very profound truth about what is really the true essence of religious faith- that religious rituals such as fasting become empty and devoid of any relevant meaning at all if the actual practice of the ethical requirements of such religion is ignored. Actual practice of these ethical requirements in daily life experiences is indispensable and non negotiable for one's faith to be acknowledged as truly an authentic one.

The parable of the workers in the vineyard illustrates the rather unexplainable mystery behind God's sovereignty in dispensing His grace. Jesus' teaching in parables mirrors God's mysterious nature and ways - incomprehensible, unpredictable and hidden to those unworthy to receive the grace, but for those chosen by God who remained obedient, faithful and trusting it is not impossible to understand and follow. In this parable, Jesus emphasizes that the grace of God is available to all and will be given to all who accept and help propagate the gospel not on the basis of one's social, religious or economic status or of one's vocation nor of the amount of effort a person gives. Grace depends on God's prerogative, will and purpose and not on human effort nor on the amount of time, energy or talent invested or offered for the advancement of God's kingdom. Jesus reminds the people that no man can dictate the amount of grace a person deserves to receive. Here, Jesus proclaims a radical message that challenges the traditional interpretation of how one can earn the grace and favor of God. He also challenges the authority and integrity of the Pharisees and scribes as the acknowledged dispensers of God's grace and official teachers and implementors of the law. The gospel of Jesus reverses the traditional understanding that the grace of God depends upon one's obedience to the law and constant good works. Instead, Jesus reminds the people that God's grace does not rely on human efforts or obedience to the law but through one's faith and loyalty to God's will regardless of whether they have been long time believers in God like the Jews or new or late entrants to the faith like the newly converted Gentiles.

For Christ's followers, the law remains an important part of their faith that guides them in their daily living. But they now also perceived that God's grace abounds so much that they

become empowered to live and aspire more than what the law requires. Like Jesus who embodies the grace of God, his followers now accept their call not because the law mandates them but it is an expression of their faith and loyalty to God in response to the grace of God they received in and through Jesus Christ.

Companion Guide for the Teachers and Other Users

Law determines the standards of justice. Laws may vary from society to another but underneath the various legal provisions are universal concepts of justice. This is true from the time of Hammurabi, the ancient lawgiver of Mesopotamia up to the modern times. Of course, there are laws that are patently unjust because they serve special vested interests rather than the entire population. But on the whole the law is justice's most trusted servant.

The Jewish law continues to have an important role for the regulation of Christian life and community. This was affirmed by Jesus himself and recognized by the Apostle Paul. But the place and value of the law was now to be seen only in the light of the gospel which is about God's grace that was manifested in and through Jesus Christ. The glory of the law shines forth from the light reflected from grace.

God's grace was already there in the law but it had remained a mystery until it was disclosed in Jesus Christ. Due to human weakness human beings have misunderstood and misused the law to serve and glorify one's self rather than be subject to it to fulfill humanity's destiny as appointed by God. As a result, God's grace is hidden from human beings and consequently missed law's true and primal purpose. In Jesus' life and work, death and resurrection, grace and law found their rightful places in the economy of God's salvation.

Created and redeemed by grace, Christians obey the call to mission in gratitude rather than being compelled by law. Such obedience exceeds the requirements of the law and without any thought of reward as promised by the law. Jesus exemplified grateful obedience to a gracious God as he subjected himself completely to God's will.

Nursery/Kindergarten/Younger Elementary Levels

I. Objectives

At the end of the session and with the consistent example shown by parents and other significant adults, the children will be able to:

1. tell the story of the workers hired in the vineyard;
2. describe how they are treated with love by the landowner; and
3. infer that the love shown by the landowner is the same kind of love shown by God.

II. Concept: Jesus shows God's love to us.

Materials: *The Holy Bible* (NRSV, 1989), glue, crayons, cotton, paper, preferably with design

III. Learning Experiences

A. Opening Worship

1. Welcome time: Greet the learners with your welcoming smile and your big warm hug. Tell each learner, "I love you and Jesus loves you best!"
2. Opening prayer: Tell the class to gather around and complete the sentence: "I thank you God for _____." Then lead the class in prayer: Dear God, thank you for the bright new day, thank you for my family and friends. Thank you for your love as shown in Jesus. Guide us as we learn more of your love. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen."
3. Opening songs:
 - a. "God Loves Us" (Tune: "Barnie Song")
God loves you. God loves me. God loves us the way we are.
Though we're different and unique in every way; still God's love is for everyone.
 - b. "Jesus Shows God's Love To Us" (Tune: "Mary Had A Little Lamb")
Jesus shows God's love to us, God's love to us, God's love to us.
Jesus shows God's love to us that we may love Him best.
Replace the word loves with gives and lives.

B. Getting Ready

Discuss with the children about their siblings at home. Ask: "How many brothers and sisters do you have? Are you the eldest or the youngest? What things do you do at home with your parents?" Encourage the children to talk about their families.

C. Learning Time

1. Prepare the class by doing a finger play.
2. Present the story.

God Is Gracious

(Based on Matthew 20:1-16)

A landowner hires helpers to work on his farm that grows grapes.

He hires some workers in the morning. He offers them their daily pay and they accept it.

He hires some more workers in the afternoon. He offers them the same daily pay and they accept it.

Then before the end of the day's work, he still hires workers who still need the job. He offers them the same daily pay and they accept it.

At the end of the day, everyone receives the same daily pay.

Those who worked longer hours complained, "Why did you give the same pay to everyone when we worked longer than the others?"

The man answered, "Did you not accept my offer of daily wage? You take what is yours and leave. Are you angry because you are envious or because I am generous? The last shall be first and the first shall be last."

D. Deepening Activity/Sharing Time

1. Ask these questions.
 - a. What did the landowner do for his farm? (He hired helpers to work on his farm.)
 - b. When did he hire his workers? (He hired some in the morning, some in the afternoon, and some before the end of the day's work.)
 - c. What did he offer to all the workers? (He offered the same daily pay.)
 - d. What did all the workers do? (They accepted the offer.)
 - e. How much did the landowner pay all his workers? (He gave them the same daily pay.)
 - f. What can you say about the landowner? Was he unfair? (He did what he promised—give all the workers the same daily pay.)
 - g. What can you say about the workers who started in the morning? (Introduce the word envy. Discuss what bad things envy can do to people.)
2. Inform the class that the story is about God's love to all of us, like the workers in the vineyard of the landowner. Say: "God loves us that He sent Jesus to us to save us. Through Jesus, God shows His offer to save us in the same way. It is freely given. Jesus offers salvation to those He meets in the morning, in the afternoon, and in the evening. We only have to accept it to enjoy it."

E. Discovering the Biblical Truth

Ask: "How does Jesus show God's love for us?"

F. Applying the Biblical Truth

1. Tell the class to recall their sharing about their families. Ask them if the eldest siblings are loved more or less than the other siblings. Encourage them to see that their parents love all of them in the same way. Then tell them that God's love works the same way. He loves us even if we are older or younger. His love is the same for those who stay in church shorter or longer than the others. His love does not come in pieces. He loves us the way we are. Once we accept God's love, we will follow Him. We can have all His love and can keep it forever.
2. Remind the class what God can do for them once they accept His love. Teach them the memory verse: "So the last will be first, and the first will be last." (Matthew 20:16)
3. Let the class do a collage. Provide them with available materials.

G. Closing Worship

1. Ask the children to recite the memory verse.
2. Offering
3. Closing songs: "God Loves Us"; "Jesus Shows God's Love To Us; and a goodbye song
4. Closing prayer: "O God our Parent, we thank you for sending us Jesus to teach us how to love. May we love all people and your creation as Jesus loves them so. This is our prayer in your Son's name. Amen."

Middle and Older Elementary Levels

I. Objectives

At the end of the session, the learners are expected to:

1. listen carefully as the story of the workers hired in the vineyard is read;
2. describe the workers and the landowner
3. compare the love of the landowner to his workers with the love of God to His people
4. infer that we can experience God's love for us; and
5. express one's gratitude for God's love for us.

II. Concept: Through Jesus, we know and experience God's love.

Materials: *The Holy Bible* (NRSV, 1989), activity sheet

III. Learning Experiences

A. Opening Worship

1. Welcome time: Greet the learners with your welcoming smile and your big warm hug. Initiate your unique handshake and converse with some children about their whereabouts last week.
2. Opening prayer: Our loving and gracious God, we thank you for your love you have shown to us each day through Jesus Christ. May we learn more about this love as we study your word. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen."
3. Opening songs:
 - a. "Jesus Loves Me"
Jesus loves me the way I am. I love you the way you are
Jesus loves us the why we are.
Hallelu-hallelujah, Halle-hallelujah (thrice), Jesus loves us the way we are.
 - b. "A Thankful Heart" (<http://www.lnwhymns.com/Hymn.aspx?ID=305>)

B. Getting Ready

Gather all the learners and ask them what household chores they do at home. Have them share their experiences—how much time they spend in doing them, how easy or difficult the chore is, and how they feel after doing them. Then ask them how their parents show their appreciation of their work.

C. Learning Time

1. Ask the class to listen carefully as the teacher reads the story in Matthew 20:1-16 aloud. Discuss the terms that the children find difficult in the story to help them understand the story. Then tell the class to read the story responsively.
2. Divide the class into five groups. Assign each group with any of the characters in the story—narrator, landowner, first set of workers, second set of workers, and third set of workers. Let each group read their parts silently and get ready to read their parts aloud with the other characters.
3. Let the class read their parts in the story.

D. Deepening Activity/ Sharing Time

1. Discuss the lesson. Ask these questions.
 - a. What is a vineyard? (It is a place where grapes are grown.)

- b. How can you describe the landowner and the workers? (The landowner showed concern for all the workers he hired. The workers are laborers who are hired to harvest grapes in the vineyard.)
 - c. How were the workers hired? (The workers were hired at different times of the day.)
 - d. What did the landowner offer the workers who came at different times of the day? (The landowner offered them the same daily pay.)
 - e. What happened at the end of the day's work? (All the workers received the same amount of pay.)
 - f. Who among the workers got angry? Why did they complain? (The workers who worked longer hours complained because they consider giving equal pay to everyone when some worked for shorter hours unfair.) Do you agree with these workers? (Yes, because they gave more work and they feel they deserve higher pay. No, because all of them were offered the same pay regardless of the time they spend for working and they accepted this offer.) How do pride and envy reflected in the story? Explain your answer.
2. Tell the class the representations of the characters and the situation:
 - a. The landowner represents God who shows concern for all God's people.
 - b. The offer of equal pay represents God's love by offering salvation to everyone who believes in Him through His Son, Jesus.
 - c. The different times of hiring during the day represent the different times used by Jesus to offer people the gift of salvation.
 3. Ask: Using the theme of the story, do you think we can also experience God's offer of salvation for us at present? Can we earn the gift of salvation?

E. Discovering the Biblical Truth

Ask: "How can we experience God's love at present?" (Through Jesus, we know and experience God's love.)

F. Applying the Biblical Truth

1. Teach them the memory verse: "So the last will be first, and the first will be last." (Matthew 20:16)
2. Let the children look back at the representation of God's grace in the story. Then ask them what things they can do to show their gratitude to God's gift of salvation.
For ME: Ask the class to talk about the bad effect of envy at home or in school. Let the class list ways to show respect and tolerance for others.
For OE: Ask the class to talk about the bad effect of pride in the church or in the community. Let them list how they can humble themselves when serving others.

G. Closing Worship

1. Offering
4. Closing songs: "We Will Live in Love" (<http://www.lnwhymns.com/Hymn.aspx?ID=248>) and a goodbye song
5. Closing prayer: "O God our Parent, we thank you for teaching us today how to love as Jesus loved. Move us to love everyone even to those who are hard to love. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen."

Youth Level

I. Objectives

At the end of the session, the learners are expected to:

1. define God's grace;
2. explain God's grace through the story of the hired workers in the vineyard;
3. discuss why the workers received the same wages despite their differences in the time they worked; and
4. express creatively the fullness of God's grace in one's life.

II. Concept: Jesus reveals the fullness of God's grace.

Materials: *The Holy Bible* (NRSV, 1989), hymnal, activity sheet

III. Learning Experiences

A. Opening Worship

1. Welcome time: Welcome the learners with your big warm hug and a smile. Do your handshake greeting. Initiate conversation especially with the early comers.
2. Opening prayer: "Our loving and gracious God, we thank you for your love you show to us each day through Jesus Christ. Continue to inspire and direct us with this love as we mature in our faith in you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen."
3. Opening song: "The Old Rugged Cross" Hymnal of a Faith Journey" # 156

B. Getting Ready

Let the class recall some experiences they had when relationships were affected because of the jealousy of some people on the accomplishments of others or when people feel they are great and indispensable. Let them exchange ideas about how they will be able to assist these people to restore good relationships. You may invite a resource person who can talk about this.

C. Learning Time

1. Tell the class to read the two biblical references and say these verses in their own words. Assign all the boys to read the OT text and all the girls the NT text.
2. Isaiah 58:6-12
 - 6-7 Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?
 - 8-9 Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the LORD shall be your rearguard. Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am. If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,
 - 10-12 if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. The LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. Your ancient ruins

shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

2. Matthew 20:1-16

- 1-2 For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard.
- 3-4 When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the market-place; and he said to them, "You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right." So they went.
- 5-7 When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, "Why are you standing here idle all day?" They said to him, "Because no one has hired us." He said to them, "You also go into the vineyard."
- 8 When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, "Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first."
- 9-10 When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage.
- 11-12 And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, "These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat."
- 13-16 But he replied to one of them, "Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous? So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

D. Deepening Activity/ Sharing Time

1. Discuss the lesson.
 - a. According to Isaiah, what kind of fasting would please God? [(Verses 6-7: God is displeased with those who boast about their fasting. God is pleased with those who fast by sharing their food and clothes to the poor as contrasted to those who boast of their fasting (verses 1-5)]
 - b. What could happen to people who please God with what they do? (Verses 8-12: God will always guide them.)
 - c. What does Isaiah foretell about the coming of the Lord? (That the Anointed One will come to restore God's relationship with His people.)
 - d. How did the landowner in the story by Matthew show grace? (He was kind and generous. He offered work and equal pay beyond legal considerations.)
 - e. Why do you think God is represented by the landowner? (God loves all His people the same way. The landowner offered work and pay the same way.)
 - f. Who do you think are represented by the workers? (We are represented by the workers in the story. God graciously offered the gift of salvation to everybody all the time.)
 - g. How can you define God's grace based on this story? (Grace in Christianity is the free and unmerited favor of God as manifested in the salvation of sinners)

and the bestowing of blessings. Grace is the reason why God sent his son to die on a cross, thus delivering eternal salvation. (<http://www.biblestudytools.com/dictionary/grace/>)

2. Discuss how God through Jesus showed grace to God's people. Jesus welcomes the outcasts of society like the blind, leprous, and the poor. Jesus heals people who are sick and dying. He dines with people who are different like tax collectors, prostitutes, and corrupt officials.

E. Discovering the Biblical Truth

Ask: How can Jesus reveal the fullness of God's grace to us today? (God still offers the gift of salvation to us today.)

F. Applying the Biblical Truth

1. Teach the memory verse: "The LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail." (Isaiah 58:11)
2. Optional: Tell the class to watch the video about the parable of the vineyard workers by Andy Konigsmark on Youtube (<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/165296248801206462>)
3. Tell the class to prepare for the grace project. First, let the class brainstorm about concrete ways to actualize God's grace in one's context. Identify a person or a group who will be the recipient of the project. Set the time and the date of implementing the said project.

G. Closing Worship

1. Offering
2. Closing songs: "Amazing Grace" (Hymnal of a Faith Journey" # 208) and a goodbye song
3. Closing prayer: "O God our Parent, we thank you for being gracious to us. Your extravagant grace overwhelms us. Move us to be gracious to others as you are to them. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen."

Adult Level**I. Objectives**

At the end of the session, the learners are expected to:

1. define God's grace;
2. describe God's grace as Isaiah describes it;
3. describe God's grace as illustrated in the hiring of the workers in the vineyard; and
4. show one's appreciation in the manner God shows his love through Jesus even though we do not deserve it.

II. Concept: Jesus is the embodiment of God's grace.

Materials: *The Holy Bible* (NRSV, 1989), hymnal, activity sheet

III. Learning Experiences**A. Opening Worship**

1. Welcome time: Welcome the learners with your big warm hug and a smile. Initiate a conversation about how gracious God is to everyone this week.
2. Opening prayer: "Our loving and gracious God, we thank you for your love you have shown to us each day through Jesus Christ. Continue to inspire and direct us with this love as we journey with you every day. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen."
3. Opening song: "The Old Rugged Cross" (Hymnal of a Faith Journey" # 156)

B. Getting Ready

Group the class into dyads. Let them talk about a ministry that they are involved. Have them talk about the effect of these attitudes: being happy with the accomplishments of others versus being envious with the accomplishments of others. Let them talk about showing grace by encouraging the first attitude when relating with others. After each dyad has finished discussing, call on selected groups to share their thoughts to the big group.

C. Learning Time

1. Divide the class into two groups and assign the first group with Isaiah 58:6-12 and the second group, Matthew 20:1-16.
2. Guide the first group in discussing the OT text. Tell that Isaiah emphasized the following:
 - a. Importance of true fasting: Sacrificial giving to the poor and weak by sharing food and clothes
 - b. God's provision to people who care for the poor, the helpless, and the weak
 - c. The foretelling of the coming of the Lord
3. Guide the second group in discussing the NT text using this outline:
 - a. The landowner giving work and same pay to all workers even beyond legal considerations and God's grace by offering everyone with the gift of salvation
 - b. The workers accepting the work offer and the people receiving the gift of salvation
 - c. The workers who got stuck with envy and missed the gracious intention of the landowner and the submission to God's will by the believers
 - d. The inclusive grace of God by giving equal chances to people who heard the Good News in the past, at present, and in the future

D. Deepening Activity/Sharing Time

Discuss the lesson.

1. Why do you think God is pleased with fasting that involves sacrificial giving to the poor, helpless, and weak? (See Isaiah 58:6-7)
2. How can we make the following work for us today?
 - a. Your light coming out like the dawn
 - b. Your quick healing
 - c. God answering whenever you call on Him
 - d. God guiding you always
 - e. God satisfying your needs
3. How did the landowner show God's grace among his workers? (He was a kind and generous employer.)
4. How can you define God's grace based on this story? (Grace is when God offered the gift of salvation to all people though nobody merits it. Grace is the reason why God sent his son to die on a cross to save us from our sins. Grace is when we believe in God and receive eternal life from Him.)

E. Discovering the Biblical Truth

Ask: Why is Jesus the embodiment of God's grace?

F. Applying the Biblical Truth

1. Discuss the memory verse: "The LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail." (Isaiah 58:11)
2. Ask: What can we do to respond to God's grace into our lives? Encourage the class to express God's grace in their chosen church ministry. Let them determine the recipient of their plan and prepare a practical way of implementing it.

G. Closing Worship

1. Offering: "Give Thanks"
2. Closing song: "Amazing Grace" (Hymnal of a Faith Journey" # 208)
3. Closing prayer: O God our Parent, we thank you for gracious love and care to us. Your extravagant grace overwhelms us even to those who are hard to love. Move us to be gracious also to others. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen."