

God's Grace

(Water Refraction & Arrow)

Lesson learnt:

Everyone has sinned and everyone needs grace. We can't earn God's grace through our own strength or suffering or even by obeying all of God's laws! So, what can turn us away from sin and back to God? Only grace!

This clever use of water refraction turns an arrow in the opposite direction without anyone touching it! Remember, it's not "magic" it's science!

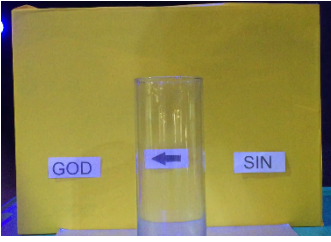
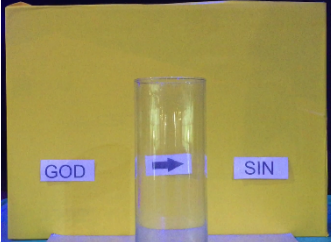

Items needed:



- Signs saying "God", "Sin" and an arrow.
- A jug of water with a sign saying "God's Grace"
- A clear jar/vase
- Book of Laws (any thick book with this title printed on it)
- You may need to set up a live video feed and screen if you are doing this for a bigger crowd, as the refraction cannot be seen from a side view only head on.

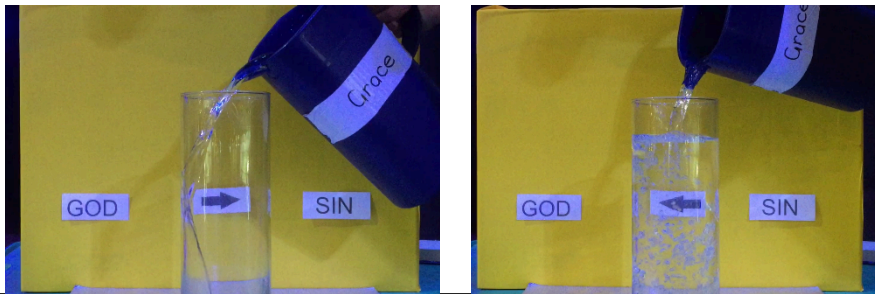
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Link to video demonstration: <https://youtu.be/k8iObDiTbXg>

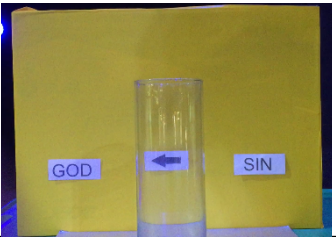
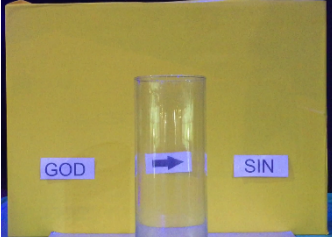
Version 1: (2 Leaders, 1 Volunteer)

<p>Leader 1</p>	<p>We know God created us to be close to Him and choose to follow Him. This arrow represents us.</p> <p><i>(Point the arrow at the "GOD" sign)</i></p>	
<p>Leader 2</p>	<p>Correct!</p>	
<p>Leader 1</p>	<p>And we know that when we choose to not follow God, it's called sin.</p> <p><i>(Point the arrow to the "SIN" sign)</i></p>	
<p>Leader 2</p>	<p>Yeah, sin is not good, we don't like sin at all.</p>	
<p>Leader 1</p>	<p>God, sin, totally opposite.</p>	
<p>Leader 2</p>	<p>Agreed</p>	
<p>Leader 1</p>	<p>So, when we choose to follow sin and not God, that separates us from God.</p>	
<p>Leader 2</p>	<p>Okay, but just turn it back, I don't want sin. Just turn it back.</p>	
<p>Leader 1</p>	<p>Uhm no, I can't do that. We are separated from God. There isn't anything that we can do on our own that can make us be right with God again.</p>	
<p>Leader 2</p>	<p>But we've all sinned. I've done lots of silly things. Just turn it back please.</p>	
<p>Leader 1</p>	<p>But we can't just turn it back. We need GRACE.</p>	
<p>Leader 2</p>	<p>Grace! Oh yes, I know Grace, she's my friend. I'll give her a call.</p>	
<p>Leader 1</p>	<p>No! Not that Grace. God's grace.</p>	
<p>Leader 2</p>	<p>Oh!! Yes, that's easy! At supper time: Little fishes lick their dishes AMEN!</p>	
<p>Leader 1</p>	<p>No, I think you've missed something, I'm talking about God's Grace. God's grace is God's gift to us. Through His love for us we get what we don't deserve.</p>	
<p>Leader 2</p>	<p>Ok! I get it now. I'm going to earn God's grace. <i>(Calls up another volunteer, another leader who already knows what to do)</i> This guy is strong.</p>	

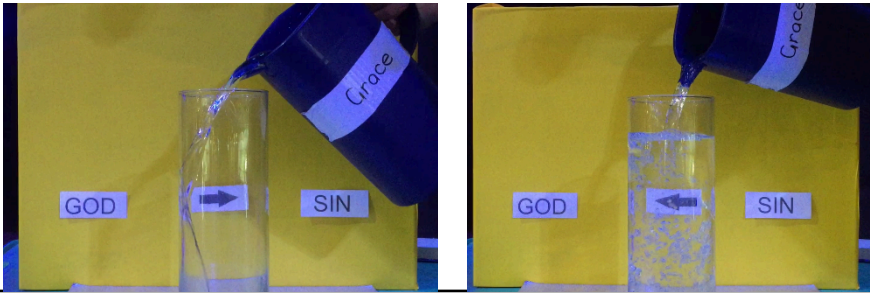
	<p>I know that if we suffer a lot then we must be able to earn God's grace.</p> <p><i>("Strangle", push and shove the volunteer)</i></p>	
Leader 1	<p>(Ask the children)</p> <p>Is he turning the arrow? No, unfortunately suffering is not turning the arrow. God's grace cannot be earned by suffering.</p>	
Leader 2	<p>Ok so I have another plan. If we can't get God's grace by suffering, then what I have here is a big book of the LAW. So, if we obey all the rules, we must be able to earn God's grace?</p> <p>(Starts mock hitting the volunteer with it.)</p>	
Leader 1	<p>No Leader 2, you are going to get in trouble. His mom is here. You cannot earn God's grace by obeying all the laws. God's grace is getting what we don't deserve only because He loves us.</p>	
Leader 2	<p>Wait, I know how to earn God's grace. You are going to work for it!</p> <p>(Starts shouting at volunteer to do exercises like jumping jacks and push-ups)</p>	
Leader 1	<p>Is the arrow turning back to God yet?</p>	
Leader 2	<p>Ok now run and do laps around the room. Go faster! Go faster! Is it working?</p>	
Leader 1	<p>No Leader 2, it isn't.</p>	
Leader 2	<p>Ok volunteer, stop there where you are. Be nice to people. Be kind to people. More people! Faster!</p>	
Leader 1	<p>Children, is the arrow changing direction? No.... Leader 2 you can't earn God's grace. You can't earn it by your works or by suffering or by the law.</p> <p>Ephesians 2:8-9 says</p>	

	<p>8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast.</p> <p>So, when we mess up and all of us do, God's grace is the only thing that can turn us back to Him and it's a free gift.</p> <p><i>(Give the volunteer a jug of water with sign "GOD'S GRACE")</i></p> <p>So now I want you to watch carefully at that arrow and let's see what happens when we have God's grace.</p> <p><i>(Pour the water into the vase)</i></p>
Leader 2	Wait.. you're just giving this to him? But he did nothing to earn it.
Leader 1	<p>Exactly it's a free gift. God sent His son Jesus to die on the cross and pay the price for our sins so that we could be forgiven. He gives us what we don't deserve, because He loves us so much.</p> <p>Now watch carefully at that arrow and let's see what happens when we have God's grace.</p>
Leader 2	<p><i>(Volunteer pour the water into the vase)</i></p> <p>Woah! The arrow turned!!</p> 
Leader 1	Only God's grace can make us right with God.
Leader 2	Wow God is amazing!

Version 2: (2 Leaders)

Leader 1	<p>We know God created us to be close to Him and choose to follow Him. This arrow represents us. <i>(Point the arrow at the "GOD" sign)</i></p>	
Leader 2	Correct!	
Leader 1	<p>And we know that when we choose to not follow God, it's called sin. <i>(Point the arrow to the "SIN" sign)</i></p>	
Leader 2	Yeah, sin is not good.	
Leader 1	When we choose to follow sin and not God, that separates us from God.	
Leader 2	<p>Okay, but just turn it back. I don't want sin. Just turn the arrow back.</p>	
Leader 1	I can't do that. We are separated from God. There isn't anything that we can do on our own that can make us be right with God again.	
Leader 2	But we've all sinned. I've done lots of silly things. Just turn it back please.	
Leader 1	But we can't just turn it back. We need GRACE .	
Leader 2	Grace! Oh yes, I know Grace, she's my friend. I'll give her a call.	
Leader 1	No! Not that Grace. God's grace.	
Leader 2	Oh!! Yes, that's easy! At supper time: Little fishes lick their dishes AMEN!	
Leader 1	<p>No, I think you've missed something, I'm talking about God's Grace. God's grace is God's gift to us. Through His love for us we get what we don't deserve.</p>	
Leader 2	<p>Ok! I get it now. I'm going to earn God's grace. I know that if I suffer a lot then I must be able to earn God's grace. I'll be back.. <i>(Hand in ice bucket, Hold a heavy item over your head and hold a squat, etc)</i></p> <p>Did I do it? Did I turn the arrow back?</p>	

Leader 1	No, unfortunately suffering is not turning the arrow. God's grace cannot be earned by suffering. The only way we can...
Leader 2	<p>I have another plan. If I can't get grace by suffering, then what I have here is a big book of the LAW. If I obey all the rules, I must be able to earn God's grace?</p> <p>Don't steal. Check Don't lie.. Uh yeah not big lies.. check Always honour mom and dad... uhm check</p> <p>Oh no! I just lied! Obey the law! Obey the law (Hit yourself over the head)</p> <p>Did I do it? Did I turn the arrow back?</p>
Leader 1	You cannot earn God's grace by obeying all the laws. God's grace is getting what we don't deserve only because He loves us. The only way we can...
Leader 2	<p>Wait, I know how to earn God's grace. I'm going to have to work hard for it! (Do push ups, run far, burpees, pull ups,etc)</p> <p>Did I do it? Did I turn the arrow back?</p>
Leader 1	No. We can't earn God's grace by working really hard. The only way we can...
Leader 2	<p>What! This feels impossible...</p> <p>Oh wait I know. What if I'm super nice to people. I can be kind. Hey Leader 1 I really like your T-shirt. It's cool. Hey random stranger you're amazing!</p> <p>Did I do it? Did I turn the arrow back?</p>
Leader 1	<p>No.... Leader 2 you can't earn God's grace. You can't earn it by your works or by suffering or by the law. Ephesians 2:8-9 says</p> <p>8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast.</p> <p>So, when we mess up and all of us do, God's grace is the only thing that can turn us back to Him and it's a free gift.</p>

	<i>(Give leader 2 a jug of water with sign "GOD'S GRACE")</i>
Leader 2	Wait.. you're just giving this to me? But I did nothing to earn it.
Leader 1	Exactly it's a free gift. God sent His son Jesus to die on the cross and pay the price for our sins so that we could be forgiven. He gives us what we don't deserve, because He loves us so much. Now watch carefully at that arrow and let's see what happens when we have God's grace.
Leader 2	<i>(Pour the water into the vase)</i> Woah! The arrow turned!
	
Leader 1	Only God's grace can make us right with God.
Leader 2	Wow God is amazing!