

Galatians 3:24 – "So the law was our guardian until Christ came that we might be justified by faith."

Setting the Scene

Key Concept:

God's law was given as a guide to help us understand His holiness and our need for a Savior. The law points us to God's promises, which are ultimately fulfilled in Jesus Christ. This journey from the law to grace reveals God's incredible love, mercy, and plan for salvation. By understanding the purpose of the law and embracing the grace we receive through Jesus, we can live with freedom, faith, and joy. This activity set explores how God's promises and His law are intertwined, showing His perfect plan for redeeming humanity.

Engaging Analogy:

"The law is like a road map, showing us the way and guiding us toward what is right. But God's promises, fulfilled in Jesus, are the destination. The map helps us stay on track, but the destination—grace—is where we find true joy and fulfillment. Without the map, we might wander aimlessly, but the promise gives us a reason to keep moving forward with hope."

Invitation:

Encourage participants to explore how God's law leads us to grace. Help them reflect on the promises God has made and how they are fulfilled in Christ. Through these activities, participants will deepen their understanding of God's love and learn to rely on His grace. Highlight how embracing grace transforms not only our relationship with God but also our interactions with others.

Section 1: Reflect and Discuss

Reflection Questions

1. What was the purpose of God's law in guiding His people?
2. How does the law help us recognize our need for a Savior?
3. What does it mean to be justified by faith in Jesus Christ?
4. How do God's promises give us hope and assurance of His grace?
5. How does understanding the journey from the law to grace deepen our faith?
6. What are some ways you can share the message of God's grace with others?
7. How does living in grace change the way we approach challenges and relationships?

Family or Group Discussion

- **Biblical Examples:** Share stories that demonstrate the journey from the law to grace, such as:
 - **The Ten Commandments** given to Moses (Exodus 20:1-17).
 - **God's covenant with Abraham** and His promise of salvation (Genesis 12:1-3).
 - **Jesus fulfilling the law** through His life, death, and resurrection (Matthew 5:17, Romans 10:4).

Reflect on how these examples reveal God's plan for grace and salvation through Christ. Discuss how understanding these events helps us trust God's faithfulness in our own lives.

- **Living in Grace:** Discuss how understanding God's law and promises transforms the way we live, helping us rely on His grace instead of our own efforts. Share practical ways to embrace grace daily, such as forgiving others, extending kindness, and trusting God in difficult situations.

Section 2: Hands-On Activities

Activity 1: Journey to Grace Map

Objective: Create a map symbolizing the journey from the law to God's promises and grace.

Materials Needed:

- Poster board or large paper
- Markers or crayons
- Construction paper
- Scissors
- Glue or tape
- Decorative items like stickers or glitter

Instructions:

1. Draw a winding path across the poster board and label it "Journey to Grace."
2. Mark key milestones along the path, such as "The Law," "Faith," "Grace," and "Salvation."
3. Add symbols at each milestone:
 - Stone tablets for the law.
 - A cross for grace.
 - An empty tomb for salvation.
4. Decorate the map with scripture verses that reflect God's promises and plan for grace (e.g., Galatians 3:24, Romans 8:1).
5. Reflect on how each step of the journey points us to Jesus and God's promises.

Extension Idea: Encourage participants to personalize their maps by adding prayers or reflections at each milestone, expressing gratitude for God's guidance and grace. Share these maps during family or group discussions.

Activity 2: Tree of Law and Grace

Objective: Design a tree representing how the law and God's promises work together to bring us to grace.

Materials Needed:

- Large paper or poster board
- Construction paper
- Markers or crayons
- Scissors
- Glue or tape
- Decorative items like stickers, glitter, or paper flowers

Instructions:

1. Create a tree trunk and branches on poster board. Divide the branches into two sections labeled "Law" and "Grace."
2. Write aspects of God's law (e.g., commandments, guidance, holiness) on leaves for the "Law" branch.
3. Write aspects of God's grace (e.g., forgiveness, salvation, eternal life) on leaves for the "Grace" branch.
4. Decorate the tree with symbols of God's love, such as hearts, stars, or doves, to show how both law and grace are rooted in His love.
5. Reflect on how the law and grace work together to lead us to faith in Jesus.

Extension Idea: Add fruit to the tree to represent the results of living in grace, such as "Joy," "Peace," and "Love." Use the tree as a centerpiece for discussions about God's promises.

Activity 3: Promises Timeline

Objective: Create a timeline showing key promises of God leading to grace.

Materials Needed:

- Large paper or poster board
- Markers or crayons
- Sticky notes or index cards
- Tape or glue

Instructions:

1. Draw a horizontal timeline across the poster board and label key moments in the Bible:
 - *God's covenant with Abraham* (Genesis 12:1-3).
 - *The giving of the law at Mount Sinai* (Exodus 20).
 - *The birth of Jesus* (Luke 2).
 - *Jesus' resurrection and promise of eternal life* (John 11:25-26).
2. Write reflections or key verses on sticky notes or index cards and attach them to the timeline.
3. Decorate the timeline with symbols of God's promises, such as rainbows, crosses, or stars.

Extension Idea: Encourage participants to add personal milestones to the timeline, such as moments when they experienced God's grace or saw His promises fulfilled in their lives. Share these timelines as a group to inspire one another.

Section 3: Music and Creativity

Memory Verse Song

Set Galatians 3:24 to the tune of a familiar children's song, such as "This Little Light of Mine":

"The law was our guide until, / Christ brought us His grace. / By faith we're justified through Him, / Forever in His embrace."

Encourage participants to create hand motions or add additional verses to personalize the song.

Extension Idea: Invite participants to write their own songs or poems about God's promises and share them during a group worship session. Use these creative expressions as a way to celebrate God's plan for salvation.

Creative Writing Prompt

Ask participants to write or draw about a time when they recognized God's grace in their lives. How did it change the way they think about His promises? What did they learn about trusting Him?

Extension Idea: Combine participants' stories and illustrations into a group "Book of Grace," celebrating how God's law and promises lead us to salvation. Share the book during family or group devotional times.

Section 4: Closing Reflection and Prayer

Reflection Questions:

1. How does understanding God's law help you appreciate His grace?
2. What is one promise of God that gives you hope and strengthens your faith?
3. How can you share the message of God's grace with others?

Prayer:

Lead a prayer thanking God for His law and promises, which lead us to grace. Pray for hearts that trust in His plan and celebrate the gift of salvation through Jesus. Include a moment of silence for participants to reflect on areas where they need to rely on God's grace.

Extension Idea: Encourage participants to write personal prayers of gratitude for God's guidance and grace. Share these prayers during family devotions or group gatherings.

THE LAW AND GOD'S PROMISES
A JOURNEY TO GRACE