



*E & V*

# Unfolding Grace

FOR KIDS

FAMILY  
DISCUSSION  
QUESTIONS



## **PART 1: THE STORY BEGINS**

(GENESIS)

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### **1. GOD'S CREATION AND HUMANITY'S FALL**

*(Genesis 1; Genesis 3:1–15)*

- In the beginning God blessed his creatures and said that everything was “very good.” What does this tell us about what God is like?
- What are three good or beautiful things you enjoy from this wonderworld that God has made?
- God commanded humanity to rule over his creation in a way that reflects his character. How do you see people fulfill these good purposes in the world today?
- We call Adam and Eve’s sin against God “the fall,” which led to humans being born with a sinful nature and the creation being broken in many ways. What is one way you experience the sad or hard effects of the fall?
- God promised that a descendant of Eve will defeat Satan, the serpent (even though the serpent would also strike him). How do you think Jesus began to accomplish this through his death and resurrection?

### **2. FLOOD AND COVENANT WITH NOAH**

*(Genesis 8:13–9:19)*

- God judged the world with the flood. What does this tell us about how serious it is to live a life of rejecting God?
- Noah and his family didn’t deserve to be spared from the flood since they were sinners, but God still saved them. What does this tell us about what God is like?
- What did God promise Noah in his “covenant” after the flood?
- When you see a rainbow, what does this story tell us to remember?
- Do you see any similarities between the way God saved Noah from judgment through the ark and the way God would one day save us from judgment through the cross?

### **3. BABEL AND COVENANT WITH ABRAHAM**

*(Genesis 11:1–9; 12:1–20)*

- Why did the people want to build the tower of Babel?
- Why was this a problem and why did God judge them for it?
- What are three things God promised to Abraham?
- How does Jesus fulfill the promise to bring blessing to all nations?

### **4. ABRAHAM AND THE PROMISE OF ISAAC**

*(Genesis 15)*

- Since Abraham's faith is a very important part of this story, what specifically did Abraham believe?
- In light of what we learn about Abraham's faith, what does it mean to believe and trust in God?
- How does this story show God's grace and kindness to Abraham?
- What did God promise when he made a "covenant" with Abraham?

### **5. THE PROMISE TO ISAAC AND THE BLESSING OF JACOB**

*(Genesis 26:1–33)*

- Do you remember the big promises God made to Abraham in the previous readings?
- What promises does God repeat and pass along now to Abraham's son, Isaac?
- How did Isaac sin and not trust God in this story?
- How was God gracious to Isaac?
- God promised Abraham that other peoples would be blessed through his line. How do we see this begin to happen in a small way in this story?

### **6. ISRAEL COMES TO EGYPT**

*(Genesis 45:1–46:4)*

- We expect Joseph to be mad at his brothers for selling him into slavery, but he believed something about God's plan for him and for the world. What did he believe God was doing?
- God promised to bless Abraham's line. What is the big obstacle to that promise in this story?
- How does God overcome that obstacle through Joseph's position and power in Egypt?
- How does this story show that God can work through even very hard situations to bless his people?



## **PART 2: GOD'S PEOPLE REDEEMED**

(EXODUS–JOSHUA)

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### **7. ISRAEL'S OPPRESSION AND MOSES'S CALL**

(Exodus 2:23–3:22)

- How does this story show us God's heart of compassion and care?
- What was the name that God gave for Moses to call him?
- Why do you think Moses didn't want to go back to Egypt?
- What did God say he would do to Egypt so they would let Israel go?

### **8. GOD'S JUDGMENT OF EGYPT**

(Exodus 7:1–25)

- According to this story, why did God harden Pharaoh's heart?
- Why did God decide to send plagues on Egypt?
- How does this story show God's power?
- Why did Pharaoh still refuse to let Israel go?

### **9. GOD'S DELIVERANCE OF ISRAEL**

(Exodus 14)

- According to this story, why did God harden Pharaoh's heart?
- Does Israel seem to be in control and powerful, or helpless and dependent on God to save them? What does that tell us about how God saves us?
- How is this story like a battle scene?
- According to the way this story was told, who was on each side of this battle and who won?
- This story of God's victory against Israel's enemies is a picture of the greater victory through Jesus. Who or what does Jesus conquer through his death, resurrection, and future return?

## **10. GOD'S COVENANT WITH ISRAEL**

*(Exodus 19:1–20:17)*

- God said that Israel was to have no gods before him, which is idolatry. An idol is something that we put in the place of God in our life—we love, enjoy, and trust it more than God. What do people tend to make into idols today?
- What does it mean to covet something? What have you coveted before?
- How do these commands reflect God's good character?
- Since we all fail to obey God perfectly, how does Jesus' life, death, and resurrection give us hope?

## **11. THE IDOLATRY OF ISRAEL AND THE HEART OF GOD**

*(Exodus 33:12–34:10)*

- This story highlights several words that describe God's character. What are they?
- What does it mean when God says he will be gracious to whom he will be gracious?
- Why does Moses want God to go with Israel so much?
- Why do you think Moses bowed down before God at the end of this story?
- This reading highlighted God's steadfast love and mercy. How do we see these revealed to us in Jesus?

## **12. ISRAEL'S JOURNEY AND REBELLION**

*(Numbers 13:25–14:25)*

- How do we see the sinfulness of people in this story?
- The spies were fearful and said there was no way that Israel could enter and overtake the land. But who or what were they forgetting about?
- What is the difference between the "bad report" and the "good report" of the land?
- What was different about Joshua and Caleb compared to the rest of Israel?
- Israel said they would rather go back to Egypt than trust God and enter the land. How does this show that their sin isn't just wrong, but foolish?

## **13. ISRAEL ENTERS THE LAND**

*(Joshua 1:1–11; 3:1–17)*

- Why did God need to encourage Joshua to be strong and courageous?

- We can all get scared or anxious to do hard things. How is it encouraging to know God is with us wherever we go?
- What big event does the crossing of the Jordan remind you of from Israel's past? In what ways does it sound similar?



## **PART 3: GOD'S KINGDOM ESTABLISHED**

*(JUDGES-KINGS)*

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### **14. ISRAEL'S CYCLE OF SIN AND RESTORATION**

*(Judges 2)*

- After Joshua died, the next generation “did not know the Lord or the work he had done for Israel.” How does this show us the importance of parents talking to children about God?
- What did the judges do for Israel?
- In what ways do we see Israel continue to sin?
- How does this story highlight God's patience with Israel, and how does that encourage us today?

### **15. ISRAEL NEEDS A KING**

*(Judges 21)*

- Israel's perpetual rejection of God has led to terrible cruelty toward one another. A number of horrible decisions have led to this final sad story. What various sins do you see Israel committing here?
- The final line of the story shows what God thinks of Israel's behavior: “In those days there was no king in Israel, everyone did what was right in his own eyes.” Why is it a problem for everyone to do whatever they think is right in their own eyes?
- How might a king help Israel no longer do whatever is right in their own eyes?
- We know that simply having a king won't be the ultimate answer—they need a true and righteous king who will lead them to know God. How does this ultimately point to Jesus as our only hope?

## **16. ISRAEL RECEIVES A KING**

*(1 Samuel 7:15–8:22; 1 Samuel 10:17–27)*

- Why did Israel want a king?
- According to the prophet Samuel, what are the kings of the other nations like?
- Why was Israel's request for a king actually a rejection of God?
- What do we learn about Saul's character by the fact that he was hiding in the baggage?
- Where do we see God's kindness to his people in this section?

## **17. THE REJECTION OF SAUL AND ANOINTING OF DAVID**

*(1 Samuel 17:1–54)*

- What do we learn about David's character and trust in the Lord from this story?
- Goliath was stronger and fiercer than David. So why did David have confidence that Goliath would be defeated?
- Is this story more about David defeating Goliath or God defeating Goliath? Why do you think that?
- By this point in the Bible, we're expecting a kingly descendant of Eve to come through Abraham's line to crush the head of the ancient serpent, Satan. What connections between that promise and this story do you see?
- How does this story point forward to the greater victory of Jesus over Satan through his life, death, resurrection, or future return?

## **18. THE COVENANT WITH DAVID**

*(2 Samuel 7)*

- What did David want to do for God?
- What did God promise to do for David?
- How is this promise of an unending kingdom through David's line a blessing for all of humanity?
- How did Jesus ultimately fulfill this promise to David?

## **19. THE KINGDOM ESTABLISHED THROUGH SOLOMON**

*(1 Kings 1:32–40; 4:20–34)*

- What ways did God bless Solomon and Israel in this section?

- How does Solomon and Israel's blessed situation remind us of Adam and Eve in Eden?
- Why is wisdom a good gift for a king?
- Since Solomon is a picture of the future greater king, Jesus, in what ways do you see Jesus's wisdom as king?

## 20. THE TEMPLE BUILT BY SOLOMON

*(1 Kings 8:1–30)*

- What does Solomon praise God for in his prayer?
- What aspects of God's character does Solomon draw attention to in his prayer?
- Solomon said that the temple couldn't truly hold God's presence, but that from the temple God would hear prayers and forgive sins. How would this be an encouragement to Israel?
- Jesus indicated that he is the true temple, and all who trust him receive the Holy Spirit's presence and also become part of the true temple. How does it change how we live knowing that Christians are now the place of God's special presence?



# PART 4: GOD'S KINGDOM DECLINED AND PARTIALLY RESTORED

*(KINGS–NEHEMIAH)*

## 21. THE KINGDOM DIVIDED

*(1 Kings 11:1–13; 12:1–20)*

- God created marriage to be between one man and one woman, and he also warned Israel's kings against having many wives. How did Solomon reject this?
- What did God say he would do to Israel's kingdom as a result of Solomon's sin?
- How was Solomon's son, Rehoboam, harsh toward Israel?
- Did you hear anything that indicated God was in control, fulfilling his plans even through the sinful actions of people in this story?



## **22. JUDAH EXILED**

*(2 Kings 25:1–21)*

- Can you summarize what Nebuchadnezzar and his army did to Israel?
- Since this is ultimately God's judgment on Israel for their sin, what does this tell us about God's character?
- How is it good news that God is just—that is, that he committed to punishing sin and evil?
- How does this story remind us of our need for forgiveness and transformed hearts?

## **23. EXILES RETURN AND REBUILD THE TEMPLE**

*(Ezra 3)*

- Why was the laying of the foundation of the temple a time of celebration?
- Why was this sad for the older people who remembered Solomon's bigger temple?
- How does this story show God's faithfulness to his people and his promises?

## **24. ISRAEL RECOMMITTS TO OBEY GOD**

*(Nehemiah 9)*

- This prayer retold Israel's story up until this point. Can you briefly retell and summarize it?
- What was the repeated pattern of Israel's behavior?
- What is the repeated theme about how God treated them? What did we learn about his character?
- What examples of God's patience do you see in this prayer?
- As we learn from Israel's example of confessing their sins, what comes to our minds to confess?



## **PART 5: THE HOPE OF RESTORATION**

*(THE PROPHETS)*

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### **25. THE HOPE OF A NEW EXODUS**

*(Isaiah 53)*

- How was this Servant's faithfulness and righteousness described?
- What is emphasized about the specific purpose of the Servant's suffering and death?
- What does it mean to be a substitute, and what does it mean for this Servant to die as a substitute for his people?
- How does this give great hope to even the very biggest sinners?
- What do you see here that predicts and points forward to Jesus's life, death, and resurrection?

### **26. THE HOPE OF A NEW CREATION**

*(Isaiah 65)*

- Since God is not planning to permanently destroy the earth, but rather create a new one, what does that tell us about the goodness of creation?
- What aspect of the description of the new creation to come stands out most to you? Why?
- How does this section describe the way God feels about his people and this coming new creation? Does that surprise you?
- How does this section give us hope even in the hardest and saddest times in life?

### **27. THE HOPE OF A NEW COVENANT**

*(Jeremiah 31)*

- What are a few examples of how we've seen Israel fail to trust, love, and obey God throughout their whole history?
- Israel deserves only punishment for their centuries of rejecting God, yet what gracious promises do you hear God make his people?

- What specifically does God promise to do for his people in the New Covenant that he will make with them?
- What does it mean he will write the law on the hearts of his people?
- How do we see Jesus bringing this new covenant to Israel and the nations now?

## **28. THE HOPE OF NEW LIFE**

*(Ezekiel 37)*

- Can you summarize the vision of what happens in the valley of dry bones?
- This picture of dry bones is a picture of Israel's (and everyone else's) spiritual state: we are spiritually dead. In light of this, how much are we able to do to save ourselves?
- Since God is the one who has to give spiritual life by his Spirit, how important is it for us to pray for God to do this for people?
- How does Jesus end up fulfilling the promise for "David" to be king over God's people?



# **PART 6: THE DAWNING OF THE KINGDOM**

*(MARK)*

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## **29. JESUS'S MINISTRY BEGINS**

*(Mark 1)*

- Thinking back to the whole history of Israel that we've observed, why is it fitting that John announced the need for repentance and forgiveness?
- Ever since "the fall" of humanity in Eden, the world has been filled with sin, sickness, suffering, and even oppression by demons. Where do we see Jesus reversing these harmful effects of the fall?
- Since Jesus has arrived as the King of God's kingdom, how do we see his authority and power on display in this chapter?
- What does Jesus mean when he calls people to repent and believe?
- What would it look like for you to "follow Jesus" in your everyday life?

### **30. JESUS'S MINISTRY CONTINUES**

*(Mark 8)*

- What does the miracle of Jesus feeding 5,000 teach us about his heart and his character?
- Jesus asked his disciples the key question: Who do you say that I am? What are three different ways people answer that question today?
- How do you answer Jesus's question, "who do you say that I am?"
- Peter was surprised that Jesus said he must suffer, die, and rise, but what have we learned from the prophet Isaiah that teaches us to expect this?
- What does Jesus mean when he said, "if anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me"?

### **31. JESUS'S JOURNEY TO JERUSALEM**

*(Mark 10)*

- Can you summarize what Jesus taught about marriage and divorce?
- How did Jesus show that he values children very highly?
- When the rich man left Jesus, what did he love more than Jesus that he didn't want to give up in order to follow him?
- Can you give an example of what it would look like to respond to Jesus's words, "whoever would be great among you must be your servant"?
- What did Jesus mean when he said, "for even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many"?

### **32. JESUS'S DEATH AND RESURRECTION**

*(Mark 15:1-16:8)*

- A sinful and guilty man (Barabbas) was released, and the righteous and innocent man (Jesus) was condemned. How do you think this "exchange" is a picture of what the cross means for us?
- How does Jesus dying on the cross for us show us God's great love for us?
- How does the death of Jesus also show us the seriousness of our sin?
- After "the fall" of humanity into sin, God promised that through the line of Eve and then Abraham, a descendent would come to defeat Satan and bring blessing to the world. How does Jesus begin to do this through his death and resurrection?

- Why is it important that there were witnesses who could confirm the historical truthfulness of Jesus's death, burial, and resurrection?



## **PART 7: THE GOSPEL SPREADS AND ALL IS MADE NEW**

*(ACTS, EPHESIANS, AND REVELATION)*

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### **33. THE CHURCH'S MISSION BEGINS**

*(Acts 2)*

- How did Peter summarize the main events that happened to Jesus?
- What did Peter mean when he said to “repent and be baptized”?
- How did many of the people respond to Peter's message about Jesus and the offer of forgiveness?
- Why is it such a great gift to not only be forgiven of our sins, but to also receive the presence of the Holy Spirit into our hearts and lives?
- Can you summarize a few marks that characterized the new church at the end of the reading?

### **34. THE CHURCH MULTIPLIES IN JERUSALEM AND BEYOND**

*(Acts 5)*

- What does the story of Ananias and Sapphira teach us about how much God cares about truthfulness among his people?
- Why did the Jewish leaders want to kill the apostles?
- Why do you think the apostles were able to have so much joy even after being beaten for speaking about Jesus?
- Would you find it hard to boldly speak about Jesus if people would be angry with you for doing so?

### **35. THE GOSPEL BEGINS TO SPREAD TO THE GENTILES**

*(Acts 9:1–31).*

- What surprised you most from this story of Paul becoming a Christian?
- How does this story show both the power and the grace of Jesus?
- In addition to transforming Paul and forgiving his sins, what did Jesus call Paul to do for the rest of his life?
- How does Paul's story show us that anyone can be saved and that no one is too sinful to receive the grace of Jesus?
- Why were the other Christians afraid of Paul at first?

### **36. THE GOSPEL CONTINUES TO SPREAD**

*(Acts 13)*

- God had promised that he would bless all the nations through Abraham's line. How does this story of Paul being sent out to share the good news of Jesus beyond Israel begin to fulfill this promise?
- Paul gave a lengthy summary the story of Israel and the good news about Jesus. What is one thing that stood out to you from his message? Why?
- Why do you think it's so important to Paul to make sure the Jewish people know that the Old Testament story of Israel finds its fulfillment in Jesus?
- Do you know of other nations that the gospel has continued to spread to through the centuries since Paul's first missionary journey?

### **37. THE GOSPEL EXPLAINED**

*(Ephesians 1:1–2:10)*

- What are a few of the spiritual blessings that Paul says every Christian has at the beginning of this section?
- How is it comforting for Christians to know that God has chosen them before the foundation of the world and has predestined them to be adopted as God's children?
- What are three things we learn about God and his character from this section?
- What do you sense is Paul's overall emotion and tone as he reflects on God's grace to us in Jesus?
- Paul wrote, "for by grace you have been saved through faith." Why is it important for us to know that we are saved by grace and not by our works?

### **38. THE GOSPEL APPLIED**

*(Ephesians 4)*

- Since Christians now have a “new self,” they are to “put off the old self.” What are some of the sinful characteristics of the old self that we are to put off?
- What are some of the Christ-like characteristics of the new self that we are to put on?
- Why are characteristics like gentleness, patience, and humility so important for living in peace and unity together?

### **39. THE KING SPEAKS TO HIS CHURCHES**

*(Revelation 1:9–2:11)*

- What did you think and feel as you read the symbolic vision of Jesus?
- What aspects of this vision of Jesus help us see his kingly power?
- Which aspects remind us of his gentleness and grace?
- What was the main problem Jesus addressed with the church at Ephesus?
- What can Christians do today to keep Jesus central as our “first love” in life?

### **40. THE RETURN OF THE KING AND THE RESTORATION OF ALL THINGS**

*(Revelation 21:1–8; 22)*

- The eternal future for God's people will not be in heaven, but will be as resurrected people on a new earth. How does this remind us of what God said about the goodness of creation in the beginning?
- How does God's promise to wipe away the tears from our eyes give comfort when we're sad?
- Why is it good news for sinners like us that God will “give from the spring of the water of life without payment”?
- From the description of the new creation to come, what reminds you of Eden?
- The repeated invitation is for spiritually thirsty sinners like us to “come.” What would it look like for you and me to “come” to Jesus today?