Helping Children Understand Grace

SSPM Tool Time Seminars
General Conference Session
San Antonio, Texas
July 8, 2015
What is Grace?
Ephesians 4:1-3

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.
Accentuate the positive

- Humility
- Gentleness
- Patience
- Forbearance
Mommy, I have a drinking problem.

TIMMY, YOU'RE ONLY SIX!!

This is your fault, Bob!

My fault?? Maybe if you'd spend more time with him!

OUR SIX YEAR OLD SON HAS A DRINKING PROBLEM!!

He sure doesn't need a role model like you!!
I've done nothing but give for this family, and this is what I get?

I'M LEAVING!!
FINE!!

I DON'T NEED YOU, AND TIMMY SURE DOESN'T NEED YOU!!

Oh Timmy, don't cry. It'll be okay. We'll be alright without daddy.

Timmy, I want you to tell me about your drinking problem.

*sniff*
Talk to me, Timmy. Tell me about your drinking problem.

If Joe drinks one liter of juice and Tom drinks two, how much did they both drink?
Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.
Living Grace in the End Time

- **Communicate in Love**
  - Open & honest
  - Willing to be vulnerable by sharing the fragile parts of ourselves
  - Active listening between the lines
  - Invites the person to know and understand us as we understand them
Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are all members of one body... In your anger do not sin. Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry... Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.
Deal constructively with anger and conflict

- Anger may not be a sin
- Anger denotes that we are hurt
- Deal with anger, hurt and disagreements positively
- Learn to leave the past behind with the willingness to have a fresh start
Ephesians 4:32

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Forgiveness

“The perfect church is where imperfect people know a lot about forgiveness.”

Alden Thompson
Forgiveness

Unconditional Forgiveness
- Grace -based
- God’s gift through the Spirit
- Frees the forgiver
- May cause the offender to repent

A Conditional Process
- One shows unconditional forgiveness; another responds in confession & repentance
- They work together to resolve the conflict.
Ephesians 5:2

... live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Love

- A commitment
- An action word
- A choice to behave in loving ways in spite of our feelings
Living Grace in the End Time

- **Ephesians 5:21**
  - ... Submitting to one another in the fear of God

- **Mutual submission**
  - Care
  - Respect
  - Acceptance
Parents, you have a church in your home and God demands that you bring into this church the grace of heaven . . . And the power of heaven, which is without measure. You can have this grace and this power if you will. . . The help of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit is placed at your disposal when in the name of Christ you ask for grace...

Manuscript 66, 1905 Taken from Reflecting Christ, Reading for June 15, p. 178
In believing and obeying it [God’s Word] you will receive grace sufficient for the duties and trials of today. Grace for tomorrow you do not need. You should feel that you have only to do with today. Overcome for today; deny self for today; watch and pray for today; obtain victories in God for today. Our circumstances and surroundings, the changes daily transpiring around us, and the written word of God which discerns and proves all things—these are sufficient to teach us our duty and just what we ought to do, day by day.

Counsels for the Church
The work of grace upon the heart is not an instantaneous work. It is effected by continuous, daily watching and believing the promises of God. The repentant, believing ones, who cherish faith and earnestly desire the renewing grace of Christ, God will not turn away empty. He will give them grace. And ministering angels will aid them as they persevere in their efforts to advance.

*Evangelism, pp. 286, 287*
Helping Children Understand Grace

- Accentuate the positive
- Communicate in love
- Deal constructively with anger and conflict
- Forgive
- Love
- Submit to one another
Bibliography

