

Kid Zone

Guide 4



A Miracle You
Don't Deserve

Velma was arrested for murdering four people.

Velma never denied her guilt, but instead told a story of childhood abuse and a drug-filled life. After her trial she landed in prison on death row.

One night a guard was listening to a gospel radio station. Down the hall, desperate and alone in her cell, Velma overheard the words of the evangelist on the radio. She wondered, *Can someone as bad as I am really go to heaven someday? How could I ever be saved?* Then a miracle happened.

That night Velma chose to believe in Jesus as her Savior. She wrote, "I had been in and out of churches all my life, and I could explain all about God. But I had never understood that Jesus had died for me."

For the next six years Velma told all her cellmates about her Friend Jesus. As the story of her remarkable change became known, Velma's cell on death row became a pulpit for God.

Before her sentence was carried out, Velma wrote to a friend: ". . . I know the Lord will give me dying grace, just as He gave me saving grace, and has given me living grace."



Pastor Hugh Hoyle said, “Velma is a living demonstration of the text, ‘By the grace of God you shall be saved.’”

The problem

It’s easy to think, *I’ve never done anything as bad as Velma did*. Here’s the problem: Whether you’re talking about a murderer, a thief, or the nicest person you can imagine, the Bible says we all have sinned and deserve to be punished. We all have made choices that condemn us.

1. Look up Romans 6:23 and complete the sentence:

“The wages of sin is a. .”

Next, personalize Ephesians 2:1-3 by filling in the blanks with specific sins that you and your friends struggle with (such as lying, cheating, etc.). “In the past you were spiritually dead because of your disobedience and sins

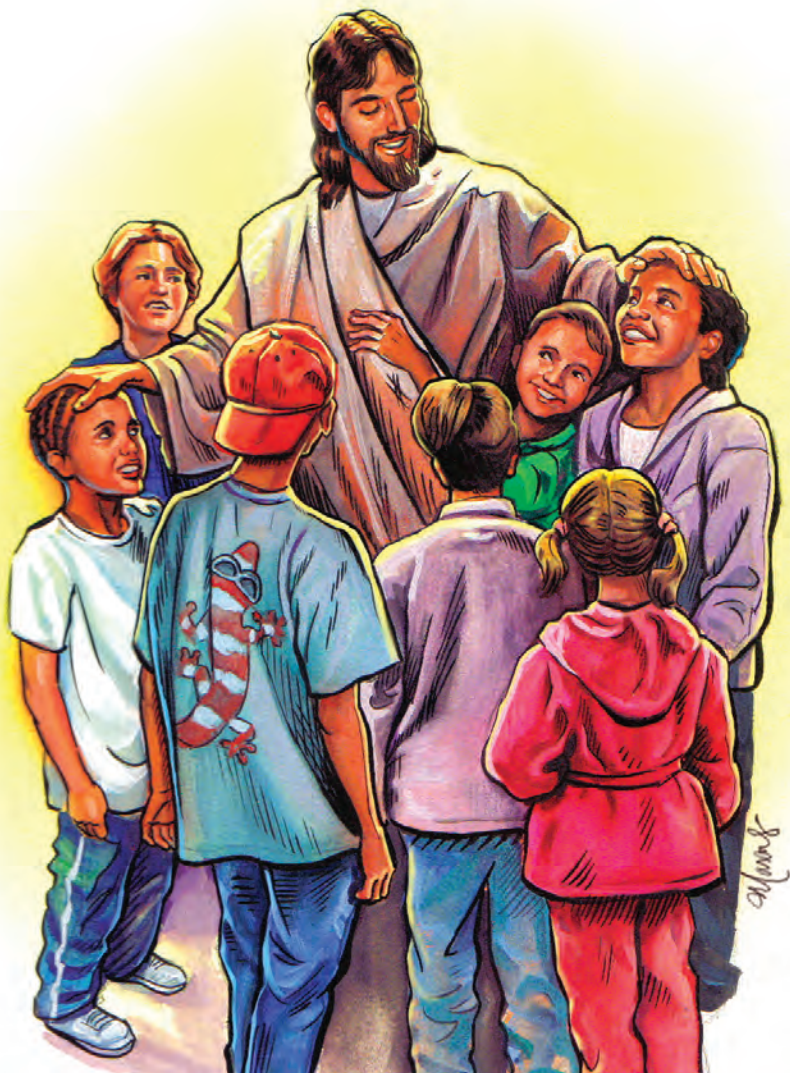
[such as b. ,
,
]...

In our natural condition we, like everyone else, were destined to suffer God’s anger” (TEV).

Now if you stopped reading Ephesians 2 at verse 3, you’d probably feel dejected. That’s because it reminds us that we are all sinners; we all deserve to die.

The solution

But don't stop reading! Jesus offers a solution to our problem. The Bible goes on to explain that God loves all people—no matter how much they have sinned. He has a special plan for you that takes care of the sin problem.



2. Personalize the next two verses in Ephesians 2 by writing your name in the blanks provided.

“But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved a. _____, even when b. _____ were dead in trespasses [sins], made c. _____ alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)” (Ephesians 2:4, 5).

Did you catch that last phrase? According to that verse, there’s only one way that you can be saved and go to heaven.

What is it? d. _____.

“Grace” is simply another way of saying, “God’s undeserved favor.” That’s God’s solution to the problem that all His beloved children deserve to die because of their sins. Grace means that we get treated much, much, much better than we deserve!

3. Have you ever been in a situation in which you received something good that you didn’t deserve? How did that experience make you feel? (Check as many answers as you want.)

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Angry | <input type="checkbox"/> Afraid |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Thankful | <input type="checkbox"/> Happy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Embarrassed | <input type="checkbox"/> Proud |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Excited | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Relieved | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

We can’t do anything to earn God’s gift of eternal life. The only reason God can treat us with grace is because Jesus

came to this earth, lived a perfect life, and died for us on a cross. We could never be good enough or do enough nice things to escape the penalty of death. So Jesus took the punishment we deserve!

4. Read Romans 5:8 and fill in the blank:

Jesus death shows God's _____ for us.

The answer

In the end, Jesus is the only answer to the question “How can I be saved?” If you want to be sure that you spend eternity in heaven with this same Jesus who died for your sins and loves you so much, you can! It’s as simple as A-B-C.

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A LOT of Grace

Douglas Cooper had a dream job for the summer. Some of his friends had a driver’s license; some didn’t. But none of them had a job that actually *required* them to drive—except Doug. His friends were beside themselves with jealousy.

Actually, it was his grandfather who gave him the job. Grandpa had started a taxi company in the little town. The business grew, and he bought another car—a brand-new Chevy. “Would you like to be the driver?” he asked Doug.

Do pigs like to wallow in mud? Is it cold in Alaska? Of course Doug wanted to be the driver!

Doug determined that he would not put a single scratch or the tiniest dent in Grandpa’s new car. And he didn’t. But before the summer was over, he would have happily traded a good many dents for what actually happened.

Late one night Doug was returning home from a run. He decided to stop by the lake to check on the family boat. Parking the car so that its lights shone on the dock, Doug left the motor running, got out, and walked down the slope toward the edge of the lake.

Suddenly he heard a noise behind him. He turned quickly—and saw Grandpa’s new car moving slowly toward him! Somehow he hadn’t set the brake properly, and now the car was rolling toward the lake! Doug grabbed the door handle as the car went past and dug his heels into the sand. He might as well have been a mouse trying to stop an elephant.

Did you know that Chevys float—at least for awhile? The car’s momentum carried it out into the lake. With red taillights burning and the radio still playing, the car looked like a miniature ocean liner. Before long it turned end up, like the *Titanic*, and disappeared gracefully beneath the water. All was dark and still.



It was a long walk home, and Doug wasn’t eager to get there. How do you tell your grandfather that you have just sunk his new car in the lake? How does someone punish a kid for sinking his car?

Doug reluctantly woke up his grandpa. “Grandpa, I need to tell you something about your car . . .”

Doug says he will never forget what happened after he told his sad tale. Grandpa just lay there quietly for a while. Then he said calmly, “Doug, I’m glad you weren’t hurt. You had better go and get some rest now.”

Doug recalls, “The foolish mistake I had made would cost this man a great deal of time and money. I deserved punishment, but Grandpa didn’t even lose his temper. I was totally, hopelessly, inexcusably negligent. Yet, incredibly, I was treated with love, forgiveness, and understanding. That night my grandpa showed me something about grace. He showed me something of God.”

That’s exactly how God treats us! If God treated us with justice, every sin would result in death. But because Jesus took our punishment, we are spared what we deserve. God responds to our accidents with grace. “For it is by grace you have been saved, . . . it is the gift of God” (Ephesians 2:8).

A—ADMIT your sins. “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9).

B—BELIEVE that Jesus died for you on the cross and rose from the grave. “If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved” (Romans 10:9).

C—COME to Jesus and invite Him into your life. “Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him” (Revelation 3:20). When Jesus comes into your life He forgives you and changes you to be like Him. He gives you the power to obey and follow Him. He becomes your friend.

Talking to God

If you want God to forgive your sins, simply pray this prayer:

*Dear Father, I am sorry for my sins
and ask You to forgive me. I believe that
You died for my sins. I give You my life and
ask You to save me when You come back to take us to heaven.
Thank You for loving me so much. In Jesus' name, Amen.*



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