

GRACE

KEY QUESTIONS:

- What is grace?
- What do people mean when they talk about the 'grace of God'?
- How is grace connected to the Law, sin, Jesus, salvation and atonement?

INTRODUCTION

In this session we will find out what grace is. We will then try to answer an exam style question.

So, what is grace? In Christianity, the word grace means the *love and kindness that God gives to all humans, even though they don't deserve it.*

CONSIDER

1. One of the most famous Christian hymns ever written is Amazing Grace. You can listen to it at https://youtu.be/HsCp5LG_zNE

"Amazing Grace"

by John Newton

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

There's a very special story behind this song. You can read about it at <https://request.org.uk/teachers/teaching-resources/people-places/significant-people/john-newton/>

TASK

- a. Why does the writer of this hymn think that God's grace is amazing? What had he done wrong?

The writer thinks God's grace is amazing because...

- b. Find two things that God has done for the writer:

God has shown grace to the writer by...

2. It's time to hear what a Christian has to say about God's grace. Watch the video at <http://request.org.uk/issues/the-grace-of-god/>

TASK

- a. Why was the girl doing so many things for God?
The girl was doing so many things for God because...
- b. Why doesn't the girl panic anymore when she forgets to pray?
She doesn't panic anymore when she forgets to pray because...
- c. What have you learned about God's grace from this video?
I learned that God's grace is...

3. Sources of Wisdom and Authority

Your exam board may ask for examples from sources of wisdom and authority about grace. So, we are now going to have a look at some Bible verses.

- 1 "For it is by God's grace that you have been saved through faith. It is not the result of your own efforts, but God's gift, so that no one can boast about it."
Ephesians 2:8-9

QUESTION

What does this verse tell you about God's grace?

This verse shows me that God's grace...

- 2 "God puts people right through their faith in Jesus Christ. God does this to all who believe in Christ, because there is no difference at all: everyone has sinned and is far away from God's saving presence. But by the free gift of God's grace all are put right with him through Christ Jesus, who sets them free."
Romans 3:22-24

This teaching from Romans tells us a bit more about God's grace.

QUESTION

What does this verse tell you about God's grace?

This verse shows me that God's grace is for...

KEY TERMS

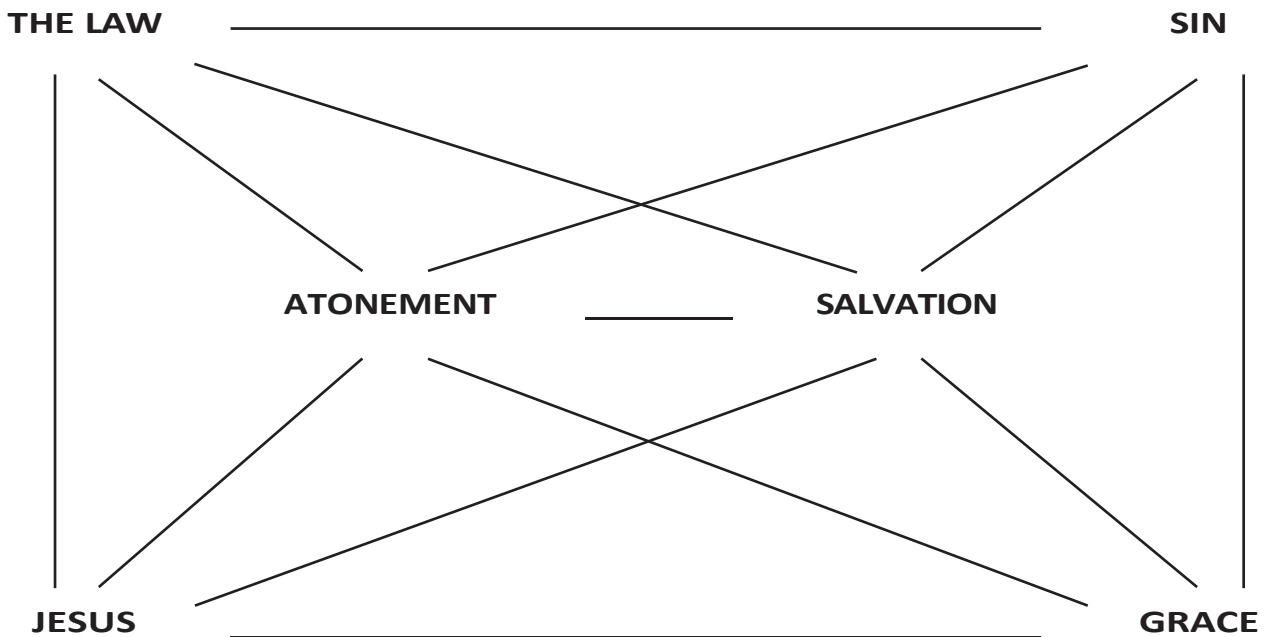
- The Law* God's teachings on how to live life.
- Sin* The bad things that we do, breaking God's laws.
- Atonement* To put things right with God
- Jesus* God sent him to die on the cross
- Salvation* To be saved
- Grace* The kindness and love of God

QUESTION

How are the Law, sin, atonement, Jesus, salvation and grace connected?

TASK

- a. On a blank sheet of paper, write out each of these keywords with lots of space in between them.
- b. Next, draw lines between them.
- c. On each line, write how they are connected. You will find the Bible extracts and what you've already learned helpful.



4. Exam Questions

There are a number of exam boards across the UK. You should answer the question for your exam board. If you aren't sure which is your exam board, contact your teacher.

WJEC EDUQAS

Explain Christian teachings about grace. *(5 marks)*

PEARSON EDEXCEL

Explain two Christian teachings about grace. *(5 marks)*

In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom or authority.

AQA

Explain two Christian teachings about grace. *(5 marks)*

Refer to sacred writings or another source of Christian belief and teaching in your answer.

OCR

- a.* Describe what is meant by grace. *(3 marks)*
- b.* Outline one Christian teaching about grace. *(3 marks)*

SQA - N5

- a.* Explain Christian belief about grace. *(4 marks)*
- b.* How might belief about grace affect Christians? *(4 marks)*