

SLAP JACK

WHAT YOU NEED: Bible, deck of cards

WHAT YOU DO:

- Look up Ephesians 2:8 together and read it aloud.
- Play slapjack together.
 - Deal all of the cards out facedown, until all of the cards have been dealt.
 - One at a time, each person places their top card face up in the center of the circle.
 - Play keeps going until a jack is placed on the top of the pile.
 - Whoever slaps their hand down on the jack first wins. That person then claims all the cards underneath the jack.
 - The game ends when one person ends up obtaining all of the cards.
 - If you'd like, set a timer and when the it goes off the winner is whoever has the most cards

WHAT YOU SAY:

“The thing about this game is that there is no strategy. You can’t earn the jack or do something to make the jack come next in the cards. There’s no way to practice or train for slapjack; no skill or effort is involved. Seeing the jack is like a gift. You just see it, claim it, and win cards. That’s it. Grace is like that: God offers it, you accept it, and that’s it. That’s a hard concept. We all want to earn something—to work hard and get a reward—but grace isn’t like that. Grace means ‘unearned favor’ or getting what you don’t deserve.

For Example: *Maybe you broke something at home and your parents forgave you, maybe you got an extra chance to take a test in school because your teacher wanted to show grace to the class, or maybe someone gave you something you could never afford or repay.)*

“Our verse says that grace is a gift from God and we can’t brag that we worked hard and earned it. Grace is from God so it’s His to give; and from our verse we know that God has given grace to everyone through Jesus. God’s grace is why **the story of Jesus is for everybody**.

THINK OF A FRIEND

WHAT YOU NEED: “Find a Friend” Activity Page; 1 per child

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid an Activity Page and a pencil or marker.
- Set a timer (*optional*) and let kids think of friends and write their for each category.

WHAT YOU SAY:

“We all have a lot of differences. This sheet covers a lot of categories! But we’re all here because of Jesus. We all come to church, usually with our families and friends, because someone somewhere invited a person that you know to become part of the story of Jesus. None of us is the exact same; we eat different things, learn different things, watch different things, and have different experiences in school and at home. When you see someone at school or in your community who is different than you, you can remember you already have something in common with them. Just like you, God loves them; and just like you, Jesus came to rescue them. It can be hard to make friends with people who are different than you—people who think differently about food and activities and ideas and clothes and entertainment. But it’s important to remember **the story of Jesus is for everybody**.

PRAY

Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus and for listening to us. This week, when we see people who are different, help us to remember **the story of Jesus is for everybody**. When we meet kids at school who learn differently, help us to show them by our kindness that **the story of Jesus is for everybody**. When we notice people who seem alone in our community, help us find ways to include them and show them that **the story of Jesus is for everybody**. When our friends or siblings do things that we don’t understand, give us patience to remember that **the story of Jesus is for everybody**. When we feel like we’re not good enough, encourage us with the truth that **the story of Jesus is for everybody**—even us. Thank You for the grace You’ve given through Jesus for everyone. Amen.