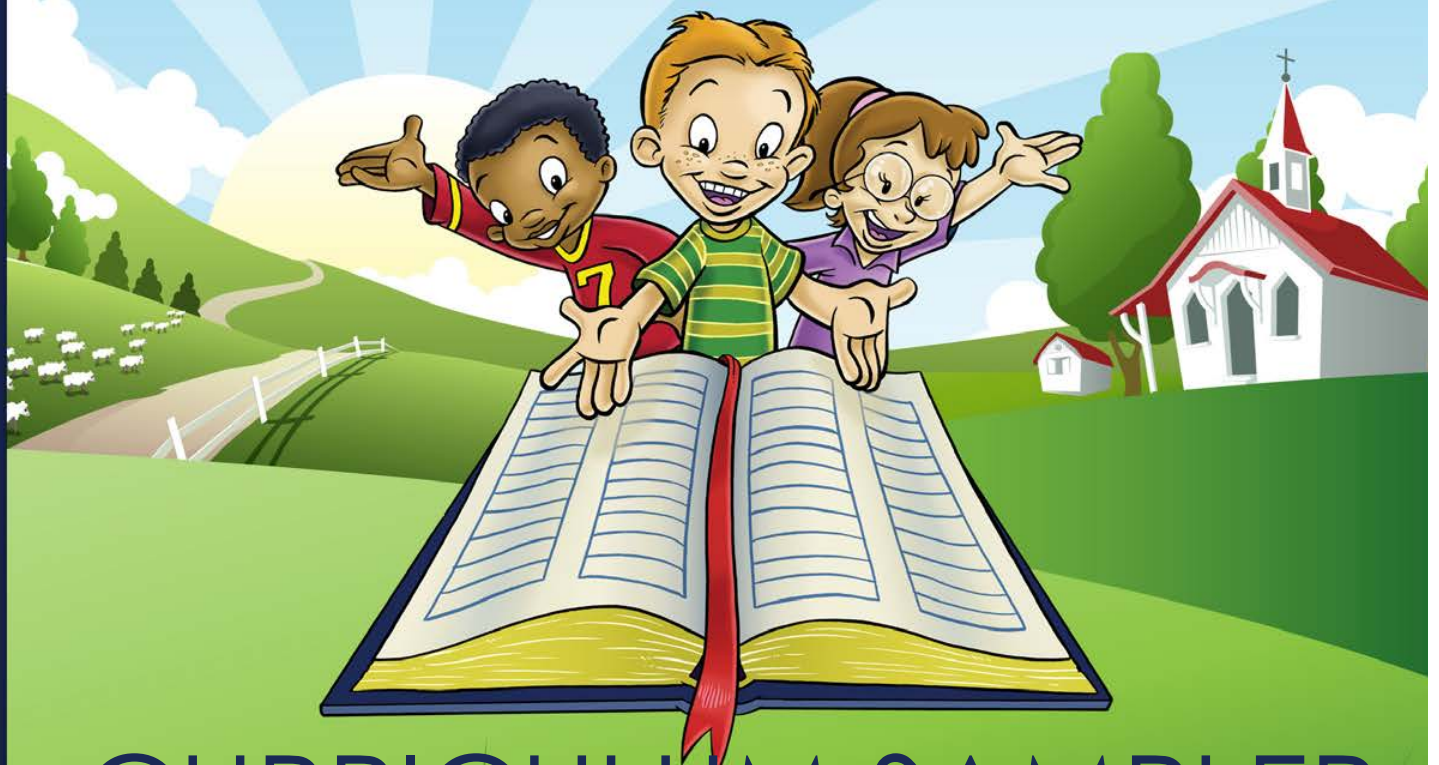


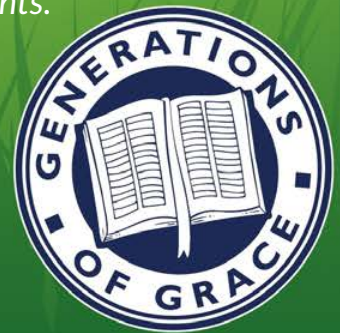
# GENERATIONS OF GRACE

TEACHING GOD'S WORD TO THE NEXT GENERATION



## CURRICULUM SAMPLER

*An introduction to our goal of glorifying God through  
evangelizing children, encouraging parents, and edifying servants.*





# WHY DOES **GENERATIONS OF GRACE** EXIST?



*Generations of Grace* exists because we must commit again to spread God's grace from one generation to the next (Deut 6:4-7). We have to admit that we can be very much like the disciples, who rebuked the people when they brought their children to Jesus (Matt 19:13). Like them, we can be sincere and well-meaning as we seek to minister to the church, the community, and the world. But like them, we easily forget the children in the process. We even act as if the children in our churches are an inconvenience. Is this not true? How often do we scramble to find enough nursery workers? How often are the most effective and godly teachers transferred into adult ministry?

Yet experience readily confirms that the best time to teach a person is during childhood (Prov 22:6). While neglecting children sets a tragic direction for their lives, investing in children pays dividends many times over as God's grace captures their hearts and spreads through them to many others. You could even measure the vitality of a church by the godliness of its young people.

The wonders of the LORD are designed to be passed from one generation to the next (Ps 78:4). So if the younger generation is to stand in awe of God, the older generation must stand in awe of God first. To have godly children, we need godly parents and teachers. Therefore, *Generations of Grace* is uniquely designed with three objectives: to evangelize children, to encourage parents, and to edify servants.

In order to declare God's mighty acts from one generation to the next (Ps 145:4), *Generations of Grace* is:

- **Biblically Driven** – covering the whole story-line of the Bible
- **God Centered** – magnifying God's character and works recorded throughout Scripture
- **Christ Exalting** – glorifying Christ as the pinnacle of God's redemptive plan
- **Gospel Saturated** – showing how every passage fits into God's plan of salvation
- **Family Focused** – uniting the whole family around the same passage of Scripture each week



# GENERATIONS OF GRACE

EXISTS TO GLORIFY GOD BY:

## 1. EVANGELIZING CHILDREN



The Bible is not just a collection of stories teaching moral lessons, nor is a child's greatest need behavior modification. A child's greatest need is to be born again, because from birth they are dead in their sins (Ps 51:5; Eph 2:1). So the greatest gift we can give the next generation is the gospel. Only the gospel is able to rescue their soul from sin and death and secure for them an inheritance in heaven forever.

But what is the gospel? While the core of the gospel is forgiveness of sin through the death of Christ (Matt 1:21; John 1:29), this is only the center of a much bigger story. After all, why do we need forgiveness? What is God's plan for those who are forgiven? *Generations of Grace* leads children through the whole story of God's great rescue mission. It does so in the hope that children would come to a comprehensive understanding of the gospel message and that by the grace of God they would look to Christ in saving faith. All the books in the curriculum are designed to reach children with this goal in mind.

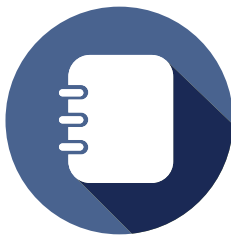
## 2. ENCOURAGING PARENTS



The most important job of parents is to raise their children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord (Eph 6:4; Col 3:21). Parents are to be the primary evangelists and spiritual trainers of their children. Parents must work very hard at this, teaching their children every day by their regular example and specific instruction (Deut 6:7). So an effective children's ministry will do all it can to encourage parents in their mission, and one way to do this is by providing helpful tools to parents. This is what *Generations of Grace* strives to do.

*Generations of Grace* provides the *Family Devotional*, a valuable tool designed with both parents and children in mind. The *Family Devotional* aims to aid the parents in their own knowledge, love, and holiness. Then as the parents grow in godliness, the *Family Devotional* also helps parents teach their children throughout the week the same stories and principles that are taught each Sunday.

## 3. EDIFYING SERVANTS



The church is commanded to edify and equip its people to serve (Eph 4:11-16). This happens as the elders of the church preach and teach, but it also happens when the elders provide resources to help the members grow in Christlikeness. *Generations of Grace* is designed to be just such a resource.

Unlike many Sunday school curricula, The *Teacher Book* does not script out lessons that a teacher can read without much thought. Instead, the lesson commentary in particular is designed to go beyond what the teacher will actually be able to teach in one lesson. It is designed to edify the teacher, filling his mind with truth and his heart with passion. The *Family Devotional* is also a great tool for the teacher, allowing him to approach the lesson in a devotional way throughout the week before he teaches it on Sunday. Then the teacher will have a deep well to draw from as he crafts a lesson specifically for his own Sunday school class.

While emphasizing the teacher's own edification, The *Teacher Book* also gives practical help by clearly and simply laying out main points, objectives, outlines, questions, introductions, illustrations, and applications. Also, additional questions in the *Family Devotional* can add to a lesson or provide discussion questions for small groups following the main teaching time.



# HOW DOES **GENERATIONS OF GRACE** WORK?



# 1. TEACHING THE STORY OF THE BIBLE

*Generations of Grace* focuses on the narrative portions of the Bible for two reasons. First, it focuses on the stories in order to show God's glory from one generation to another. We see God's glory as we grow to understand His master plan of redemption, and each story in the Bible is a part of this great story.

Another reason *Generations of Grace* focuses on the narratives of Scripture is because children learn best through stories. On the one hand, children are usually weak in their ability to think abstractly or reason logically (as is required in the New Testament epistles, for example). On the other hand, children are strong in their ability to notice and remember tangible aspects of the world around them. By communicating in a tangible, real-life way, the stories of the Bible have a profound influence on the way a child perceives reality. In this way, the Bible becomes a part of their own life-story.

## YEAR 1

16 Lessons from Genesis  
11 Lessons from Exodus  
4 Lessons from Leviticus  
5 Lessons from Numbers  
5 Lessons for Christmas  
4 Lessons for Easter

## YEAR 2

3 Lessons from  
Deuteronomy  
6 Lessons from Joshua  
3 Lessons from Judges  
1 Lesson from Ruth  
10 Lessons from Samuel  
7 Lessons from Kings  
1 Lesson from Jonah  
1 Lesson from Esther  
5 Lessons from Daniel  
2 Lessons from Ezra  
2 Lessons from  
Nehemiah  
3 Lessons for Christmas  
3 Lessons for Easter

## YEAR 3

24 Lessons from the Life  
of Christ  
15 Lessons from the  
Book of Acts  
4 Lessons from  
Revelation  
2 Lessons for Christmas  
2 Lessons for Easter



## 2. A UNIFIED CURRICULUM

*Generations of Grace* is set up as a unified curriculum, meaning that all the children in a family will be learning from the same passage of Scripture each week. This streamlines the parents' task, allowing them to interact with all of their children on the same truths.



## 3. REPEATING A THREE YEAR CYCLE

*Generations of Grace* is a three-year cycle aimed at children from three to twelve years old. So a child being taught through *Generations of Grace* will go through the curriculum three times. This repetition solidifies truth in their memories, but even more than that, it allows the teacher to start simple and then go deeper and deeper. For this reason, the objectives, outlines, questions, illustrations, and activities are designed according to three levels with the following suggestions:

- **AGES 3-5:** A 5-10 minute lesson telling the story and teaching one simple truth.
- **AGES 6-8:** A 15-20 minute lesson telling the story and developing the main truth more.
- **AGES 9-11:** A 25-30 minute lesson leading the children through the text and adding increasing depth to the main point.

However, since all these levels are included in each lesson, a teacher can creatively pick and choose ideas from each level to most effectively reach his own particular Sunday school class.



AGES 3-5



AGES 6-8



AGES 9-11