

The Light - Junior Series
Lesson 100

Grace & Our Dads



2017

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

If YOU have never personally believed in the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior; you have the opportunity to do so right NOW. Simply tell God the Father that you believe in His Son, Jesus Christ, who loved us so much that He came down from heaven and became a man to take our place and pay for the penalty for all the sins of all mankind. Jesus, the Savior died on the Cross for your sins and the sins of the whole world. Then Jesus was buried but He rose again and He is alive today seated at the right hand of the Father in heaven. When you make the decision to believe in Jesus in simple faith based on His work on the Cross, you are now a believer and will always be a child of God. When you die, you will spend eternity with Him in Heaven. *(Acts 16:31) "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved." (John 3:16) "God loved the world so much that He gave is One and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."*



LESSON

Kids, this lesson is going to be taught not only to you but to your dads, too. However, we realize that some of you kids might not have a father around. If that's you, every time we refer to dad you can put in there; mom, or grandma, or whoever it is that is taking care of you every day, okay?

"Dad, are bugs good to eat?" asked the boy.

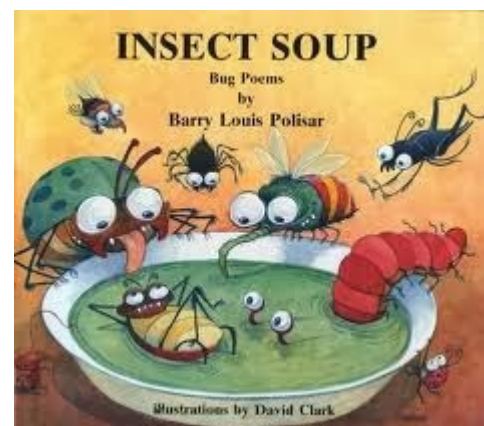
"Let's not talk about such things at the dinner table, son," his father answered.

When dinner was over, the father turned to his son privately and asked him, "Now, son, what did you want to ask me?"

"Oh, never mind," the boy said.

"There was a BIG BUG in your soup...but now it's gone."

The problems fathers and kids have are usually harder to handle than a bug in our soup.



Dads, have to ask themselves if they're prepared to be the guardians of God's grace ruling in our families.

What are we talking about here...GRACE!
What is grace?

Grace is favor and blessing toward completely underserving human beings...all human beings. Uh oh, you say!

Jesus' cross met all of the charges against all human beings by God and God's throne in a completely righteous or perfect way.

God has spoken to us as HE IS, in abounding grace because God is love.



So we (and that includes you, kids) should expect to be blessed, though realizing more and more that we don't deserve that abundant grace apart from Jesus.

How is the Lord using us as instruments of His grace for the hearts of our children, dads?

Dads, how do we teach our children that our God is a God of grace, the God of ALL grace in fact?

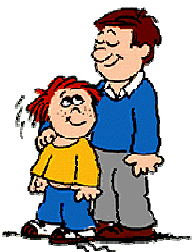
Rom 6:12-14 "Therefore do not let sin rule in your physical body so that you obey its lusts, (13) and do not go on presenting the parts of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your body parts as instruments of righteousness to God. (14) For sin shall not be master over you for you are not under law (of sin) but under grace."

When you see sin in your child's life, what is your first instinct? Is it to put them under LAW of sin or put them under GRACE?



What does it even mean to put our children under grace?

Should our children's sins color how we treat them? Or should we do what's best for them, without regard to what they deserve?



If we want to be fathers who give grace to our children, that is how we will be toward them...gracious. But this doesn't mean that we never discipline them. It means that we discipline them only for their benefit...never out of anger. It is how we teach them the will of God in their earthly lives.

How are our children doing, dads? Are they happy? You know, there are few things that ache more in the heart of a man than the ache of seeing one of our children in pain. And there are few pains more painful in the heart of a child than the pain of being discouraged.

Listen, dads & kids, it turns out that God is on top of this. He has done something incredibly gracious for us Christian dads and believe it or not it is a command to us dads in the book of [Ephesians](#) and in the book of [Colossians](#). God gives us the same idea stated in these two books.

What is the one New Testament command that the Lord has given directly to Christian fathers concerning their children? Of all the thousands of things He might have said to us, when He had our attention...Hey listen up Christian fathers...



He might have told us how to prepare our kids for a job.

He might have told us how to best spank them.

He might have told us how to protect them from danger or what to do when another kid is bullying them.

But check out the ONE THING He did tell us Christian fathers...



[Eph 6:4](#) "Fathers, do not cause your children to be angry, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord."

[Col 3:21](#) "Fathers, do not frustrate your children, so that they will not lose heart."

This means don't cause someone to feel resentment, become bitter, or to become disheartened then lose motivation.

What causes bitterness in our child's heart? What things cause our son or daughter to become angry? How about in our own heart? Do we know when our child is disheartened, discouraged, losing hope, or losing motivation?

Perhaps we don't know. Shouldn't we want to find out though? Of course we should and there's no better place than in God's WORD.

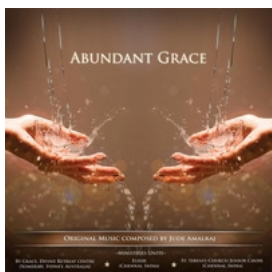


What are the important things to teach our children about the Lord? It is that our God is a God of forgiveness and that means their childhood dreams really do come true. The broken is made whole again. What is awful becomes a wonderful learning experience from God instead.

In Luke 7:22-23, Jesus said, "Go and report to John (the Baptist) what you have seen and heard: the blind receive sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have had the Gospel preached to them. (23) Blessed is he who does not take offense at Me." Jesus in this verse made those childhood nursery rhymes turn out to be telling the truth about life when HE'S in it! There really ARE happy endings. Maybe yesterday may not have turned out to be a "happily ever after" for you but most certainly now with Jesus there is a fresh Once Upon a Time waiting for you from this day forward. Kids, Jesus is the only ONE who can give us "happily ever after."



Look at the GRACE God gave us in Eph 2:1-7. "And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, (2) in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air (Satan), of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. (3) Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. (4) **But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, (5) even when we were dead in our sins, made us alive together with Christ (by GRACE you have been saved), (6) and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, (7) so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.**"



God is loving and kind beyond our wildest dreams. He is all forgiving. He is rich in mercy. He is our Great love...our great, great love and He gives us the amazing surpassing riches of His grace. He pours His grace upon us. He gives us blessed assurance of our future with Him in eternity after we die.

He gives us grace to calm the mighty storms in our lives and when it seems like nobody else cares...yes, our God will be there with His abundant GRACE.



That God's thoughts for them outnumber the sands of the seashore is a fact that you must TELL THEM...your children! Remind them of these things! Kids, you're sitting next to dad learning this lesson and you never have to fear because your God is right there with you both! Dads learn, too!



God NEVER fails us and we are never alone...never forgotten. We are fearfully and wonderfully made in God's image and God has counted each and every hair on our heads.

Know that when we are weak God will give us strength and that there is a throne for us with Jesus Christ...the One who died for us...sitting there and that throne is open for their business 24 hours a day to hear our prayers.



Jesus prays for us!!! This is all a part of the GRACE of God that is gushing forth from that throne along with rivers of living water and rivers of mercy just for you!

Christian fathers are to be guardians of the grace of God in the lives of the children.

Fathers, realize that your job is challenging...challenging but great. Love your kids freely and guard and do battle against bitterness, anger, and discouragement in their hearts.



Fathers, how are we to live? As lovers as those whose behavior toward their children never reaches the point where our children's hearts spill over into anger and discouragement.

How different our lives will be when we accept these things from our Lord and desire to live this way.

Rom 5:20-21 "The Law came in so that the sin would increase; but where sin increased, GRACE overflowed all the more, (21) so that, as sin ruled in

death, even so grace would rule through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

Yes, fathers, we are called to be guardians of grace! This means taking [Ephesians 6](#) and [Colossians 3](#) seriously to heart.

How do we not do things that make our children lose heart? We encourage them!!! You see, there is a unique calling to fathers...a unique job. We dads are called by Jesus to ENCOURAGE our children.

We are guardians of Bible words, God’s words that bring encouragement, confidence, hope, a sunny outlook on life, and cheerfulness to our children.

Now picture a father throwing his child in the air...dads do that, you know. What happens after they throw them in the air? They catch them before they fall down!

But guess what, even when you kids fall down, dads come to the rescue and pick you up. You can’t beat that. That’s a picture of God’s grace.

Optimism is a word we don’t hear much about these days. It means to be positive about things, cheery in fact! Be optimistic for your kids’ sakes, dads. Teach them God’s abundant grace...teach them to wait on the Lord ([Isa 40:31](#)) so they can gain new strength, [mount up with wings like eagles, run and not get tired, walk and not get weary...THAT’S GRACE](#), dads and kids.



Be your children’s guardians of grace. This is what we were built to do...get trained so you can train them and bring this grace way of life in Jesus to your family.

[Matt 11:25-30](#) “At that time Jesus said, ‘I praise You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and intelligent and have revealed them to infants. (26) Yes, Father, for this way was well-pleasing in Your sight. (27) All things have been handed over to Me by My Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father; nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.

(28) Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. (29) Take My load upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS. (30) For My load is easy and My burden is light.'"

To be optimistic for our children's sakes means they have a future...

Jer 29:10-14 "For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans for welfare and not for catastrophe to give you a future and a hope. (12) Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. (13) You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart. (14) 'I will be found by you,' declares the Lord, 'and I will restore your fortunes and will gather you from all the nations and from all the places where I have driven you,' declares the Lord, 'and I will bring you back to the place from where I sent you into exile.'"

Because our God and our Father, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ turns cursing into a blessing, our bad things will turn out for good. He promises that our truly good things will never be taken from us and He promises that the best things are yet to come!

Blessed be the God and Father
of our Lord Jesus Christ
who hath blessed us with
all spiritual blessings
in heavenly places in Christ."

Ephesians 1:3

So in fact they can rule in life! Says who? Says GOD!

Rom 5:17 "For if by the sin of the one (Adam), death ruled through the one (Adam), much more those who receive the abundance of GRACE and of the gift of righteousness will rule in life through the One, Jesus Christ."

So tell your kids, dads. Remind them of these things all the time. Best of all, realize that God has placed you in their lives, and placed His words in your heart. So go ahead tell your kids they can fly. Then toss them up in the air with your arms if they are still small enough and with your heart no matter how big they are...DEFINITELY WITH YOUR HEART!



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