

Awana T&T - Agents of Grace

Begin with prayer

Look at the front of your books - what is the first word you read? Agent - what is an agent?

Wild Fun Facts About The Biblical Word for "Agent"

Since our new Awana book is called *Agents of Grace*, we will learn what a real biblical "agent" actually is!

- **The Word Origin:** The English word *agent* comes from a Latin word that means **"to set in motion, drive forward, or do."** A biblical agent isn't someone who sits around; they are the active hands and feet that get things moving!
- **In ancient Jewish culture,** *"A person's agent is given the same authority as the person himself."* **Representing the King:** In biblical times, if a King sent an "agent" to another country, whatever that agent said or did was treated exactly as if the King himself were standing there saying it.

And what does grace mean?

Section 1.1 lesson - God is our Savior

Theme: God saves us because of His mercy, not because of our good works. the core message of the Gospel: that we cannot save ourselves through good deeds. Salvation is a free gift from God given through His mercy, which cleanses us and makes us brand new.

Say the Memory Verse in Unison: Titus 3:4–5 - "But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit,"

What the Verses Mean - the Gospel within the verses

- **God is kind and loving:** Verse 4 tells us that God our Savior showed His big heart, love, and kindness to people.

- **You cannot earn it:** Verse 5 says God does not save us because of the good works or rules we do. You cannot be good enough to "earn" God's rescue gift of Salvation.
- **It is a free gift:** God saves us because of His **mercy** - **Mercy** is *not* getting the punishment you deserve.
- **A clean new start:** The verse talks about "washing" and "renewal" by the Holy Spirit. This means God cleans our hearts and makes us pure, like taking an old spaghetti stained white shirt and giving us a new pure clean white shirt to wear, and He gives us a brand-new start to live with Him forever.

Bible Study & Core Keywords

Read Titus 3:4–5 NKJV together as a class. Break down the verse using these 6 key concepts:

- **Sin:** This is the starting point. Sin is anything we think, say, or do that breaks God's law and separates us from Him. When you like, when you cheat at a game, when you take a toy that doesn't belong to you, all of those things are sin and it's part of who we are from birth, Because of sin, our "cloth" is stained, and we are spiritually broken. Sin is something we are born into, it is something we cannot escape, we all have a sin problem.
Romans 3:23 Romans 6:23. But God has a plan to save us.
Romans 5:8
- **Righteousness:** This means being perfectly good, right, and holy in God's eyes. The Bible says that even our very best days and highest "works of righteousness" are not enough to erase our sin or earn a ticket to heaven. We can't buy or earn our way to God, like we learned in our memory verse this week right?!
- **Savior:** Who is our Savior? JESUS! A savior is someone who rescues you from a danger you cannot escape on your own. God didn't leave us trapped in our sin. Out of pure kindness and love, Jesus came to earth to be our **Savior** by taking our punishment on the cross. Jesus died on the cross, but he did not stay that way, he came back to life, defeated death and is alive today!

John 3:16-17

- **Mercy:** Mercy is when someone deserves a punishment, but you choose to forgive them and show them kindness instead. We deserved the punishment for our sin, but God showed us **mercy** by saving us instead. **Mercy** is *not* getting the punishment you deserve. Mercy was shown on the day Jesus died on the cross, he took the punishment that we deserved, did you die on the cross? NO, Jesus died on the cross, his life was perfect - our life is sin, so it took a perfect life to pay the price - and Jesus willingly did this because He loved us first. He died so we don't have to die spiritually, we get to live forever with Him in Heaven. **Mercy** is *not* getting the punishment you deserve.
- **Regeneration:** This is a big word that means "to be born again" or "given new life." The verse talks about the "washing of regeneration." When we trust in Jesus, God doesn't just patch up our old, sinful life; He gives us a brand-new spiritual birth. So we are walking around with old spaghetti stained shirts right from birth aren't we? And what happens when we receive the Holy Spirit and we are saved from our sins?
- **Renewal:** This means being made fresh, clean, and new. The Holy Spirit comes to live inside us, constantly changing our hearts, replacing our old selfish desires with a desire to love and follow God. We are now eternally pure - we have these amazing new white clean shirts, even though new stains happen because we still sin, the stains cannot stick, they are cleansed by Jesus and we are not punished for our sin, Jesus makes us pure because He is powerful, not because we are.

The Core Message: What is Mercy?

We are learning how to be **Agents of Grace**. To be an agent of grace, we first have to understand what God did for us.

A biblical agent—whether a prophet, king, everyday person, or a follower of God—shows mercy by choosing kindness, forgiveness, and relief over

punishment or judgment. In the Bible, mercy is not just a feeling; it is an action taken by someone who has the power to punish or ignore a problem, but chooses to help instead.

Application: Living as an Agent of Grace with Mercy

God wants us to take the mercy He gave us and show it to others.

- **At School/Home:** When someone cuts in front of you in line, rolls their eyes at you, or takes your toy, your human instinct wants "justice" (revenge!).
- **The Agent Directive:** An Agent of Grace chooses **mercy** instead. **Mercy** is *not* getting the punishment you deserve. Forgive them, show kindness, and don't hold a grudge.
- **Our Mission:** As **Agents of Grace**, when people look at us, they should see the character of our "Principal" (God). We hold His authority to spread His love and mercy to the world!
- In the Bible, mercy is not just a feeling; it is an action taken by someone who has the power to punish or ignore a problem, but chooses to help instead.

What does Mercy mean?