



God Proclaims Jubilee

(based on Leviticus 25:1-12, 25-28, 35-42)

It had been a long journey for Moses and the people. The Hebrews had been slaves in Egypt. God helped them escape and promised them a new land of their own.

Now, finally, they had arrived on the edge of their new home. Everyone was very excited as they made camp for the night. They shared stories about the long journey, and they wondered what their new home would be like.

Moses called the people to a big meeting. God wanted to tell them how they should live in their new home. It was time for some instructions. God told Moses what to say.

“People of Israel,” Moses announced. “Soon you will go into your new home. You will settle down and farm the land. For six years, you will grow food and work in the fields. However, the seventh year will be a sabbath year—a year of rest. When you hear the trumpets, that will be the signal: Don’t plant or work the land. Rest and the land will rest. Eat what you find. Invite slaves and poor people to share your food.”

Some of the people knew about farming. “God is right,” they explained. “The land needs to rest.”

“Every forty-nine years will be the year of jubilee,” Moses continued. “In that year, you will give thanks for your freedom.”

Leader: Sound the trumpets!

Children: It’s time to celebrate!

Together: The day of freedom is here!

The people were curious. What was this year of jubilee?

“In that year,” Moses explained, “anyone who owes money will be forgiven. Anyone who lost their home, because they could not afford to pay their bills, will get their home back. Anyone who was forced to work for others will be freed. It is the year of jubilee!”

Leader: Sound the trumpets!

Children: It’s time to celebrate!

Together: The day of freedom is here!

“Wow!” exclaimed the people. “This is good news! God loves everyone the same. Our God is a fair God. God wants us to treat others fairly too.”

So the people went into the land and followed God’s ways.

Leader: Sound the trumpets!

Children: It’s time to celebrate!

Together: The day of freedom is here!



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Use one or more activities from each section to explore grace and gratitude with your children this week.

Recognizing God's Grace

- Read and enjoy the story with your children—imagine and wonder.
- Rest, or sabbath, is an important part of life. Sabbath is a time for activities that restore us. Talk with your children about how your family practices good self-care.
- Challenge your children to name the many ways God takes care of us.



Responding to God's Grace

- Brainstorm together to name situations where forgiveness would be needed. Write the situations on separate index cards. Take turns drawing a card and talk about if and how you could forgive in that situation. Talk about how forgiveness is easier in some situations than others.
- Years ago, when your grandparents and great-grandparents were children, stores were not open and sports were not played on Sundays. It was a day of rest or a day to be spent with family. What do you think of this practice of keeping the Sabbath as a day for rest and renewal? How can you and your family honor a time for rest and renewal?
- Ask your pastor how your church is working to live in harmony with creation. Can you find a way for your family to serve?

Celebrating in Gratitude

- Plan a night to sleep on sleeping bags in the living room or kitchen. Consider sleeping outside! Have a meal you can eat “campfire style,” around the sleeping bags. Tell stories about your family’s journey so far, and wonder what is coming in the future.
- The trumpet is a joyful instrument. Do a YouTube search for Franz Joseph Haydn’s Trumpet Concerto in E-flat. After the introduction, at about 1:10, it is easy to hear the trumpet and orchestra toss the melody back and forth. Raise your hands high every time you hear the trumpet, and put them down when the orchestra answers.
- Pray:

God, help us to treat others fairly so that everyone can have enough. Amen.