

The Grace Meter

Answer the following questions honestly and then see how much you are living by grace.

I find myself thanking God for the “little” things in my life—like good health, a nice day, my friends, and my family:

- a. Consistently
- b. Almost never

I read my Bible and pray because:

- a. I long to know God better and I look forward to talking to God each day
- b. I know I should do it

When tempted to do wrong, my first thought is:

- a. How could I sin against God like this?
- b. What will happen if I get caught? Is it worth the punishment?

When I think about God, I ask:

- a. How can I give more of myself to you, Lord?
- b. Why do you ask so much of me and why can't I have any fun?

When I think of what I do for God:

- a. I am amazed that God would use someone like me
- b. I am pretty proud of what a good Christian I am compared to others

When it comes to the real me:

- a. I readily admit my failures and most people know the real me
- b. I feel like I have to maintain an image of a good Christian teen, but inside I know that there is a lot wrong with me

I feel like:

- a. God loves me and is good to me even when I am at my worst
- b. God must be angry at me or out to get me because I don't feel His love

Being a Christian is:

- a. The greatest thing that ever happened to me and I love it
- b. Good because I don't have to go to hell, but other than that it doesn't do much for me

After you have honestly answered these questions, grade yourself. An “a” is worth three points; a “b” is worth one point.

Scores	
20–24:	You are experiencing God's grace in a real and exciting way.
13–19:	You know a little about God's grace but there's more to it.
Under 12:	God desperately wants you to experience His grace so He can claim your love.

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Response Time

Think of someone in your life who is gracious to you—that is, they show you favor and kindness even when you don't deserve it. What can you do that would be an appropriate response to their grace? List five ideas. Then switch papers with someone and hold that person accountable to do at least two in the next week. Ask that person to hold you accountable, too.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

The Greatest Gift

Teen the best gift you have ever received.

What was your response to it?

Did you resent having to say thank you? If so, why?

"You Stole It!"

The Characters:

Teen A: _____ Teen B: _____

Teen C: _____ Teen D: _____

The Play:

Teen A walks up to Teen B.

Teen A: Hey, _____ (*Teen B*), how are you?

Teen B: Hey, _____ (*Teen A*). _____ (*adjective*), I guess. Still working on my _____ (*noun*) for school. Sometimes I get _____ (*adjective*) when my _____ (*noun plural*) give me a hard deadline. I have to work _____ (*adverb*) just to keep my grades _____ (*adjective*) where I want them.

Teen A: Wow, sounds like you'll be working until _____ (*time*), at least.

Teen B: Yeah.

Teen A: Listen, _____ (*Teen B*), I wanted to talk with you about something. I'm not quite sure how to say this, but yesterday I thought I saw you going through _____ (*Teen C*)'s book bag while he/she was in _____ (*location*), and then I heard that he/she was missing his/her _____ (*noun*). I don't want to accuse you or anything, and this may just be a misunderstanding, but if you took it, I had to say something to you.

Teen B: Well, I, uh . . .

Teen D walks up to Teen A and Teen B.

Teen D: Hey, all! What're you two _____ (*verb with -ing*) about?

Teen B: Go away, _____ (*noun*). Your _____ (*noun plural*) are _____ (*adjective*).

Teen A: Sorry, _____ (*Teen D*), we're trying to have a private conversation.

Teen D: Well I just heard that _____ (*Teen B*) was totally _____ (*verb with -ing*) through _____ (*Teen C*)'s book bag yesterday right before that . . . uh, thing went missing! _____ (*Teen B*), you're a _____ (*adjective*) thief! I'm gonna tell everyone!

Teen A: _____ (*Teen D*), no one else needs to know about this. We just need to resolve this between _____ (*Teen B*) and _____ (*Teen C*).

Teen D: Whatever. I'm good if you're _____ (*adjective*).

Teen A: _____ (*Teen B*), would you like me to go with you to talk to _____ (*Teen C*)?

Teen B: I guess so. I'm sorry about this.

Teen A and Teen B leave.

Teen D: Well that was _____ (*adverb*) _____ (*adjective*). Oh well. I think I'll go _____ (*verb*) a _____ (*noun*), now. _____ (*farewell*)!

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The Grace Meter 2

Answer the following questions honestly and see how much grace you are showing to others.

I find myself cutting other people down:

- a. Regularly
- b. Almost never

I generally think of myself as:

- a. Somewhat better than others around me
- b. No better than anyone else

Most of my time praying is spent on:

- a. Myself
- b. Others

When I meet other Christians for the first time, I:

- a. Try to find out if they are just like me
- b. Accept them for who they are

When I see other teens who dress out of style, I:

- a. Make fun of them to my friends
- b. Don't say anything

When someone makes a mistake, I:

- a. Point it out to him and others
- b. Let him know it's OK

When others fall into sin, I:

- a. Avoid them
- b. Confront them or let them know I hope they are restored to fellowship with God

When people wrong me, I:

- a. Throw it back into their faces when I need to
- b. Forgive and don't bring it up again

After you have honestly answered these questions, grade yourself. An "a" is worth one point; a "b" is worth three points.

Scores	
20–24:	You are demonstrating grace in a real way to others.
13–19:	You know a little about showing grace, but you can do better.
Under 12:	Pride and legalism may be keeping you from showing the grace that God freely shows you.

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A Good Defense

What outer defenses would be good to keep the following teens from temptation?

Tyler just became a Christian. Before he accepted Christ, he was twice convicted of shoplifting at the mall. He would hide merchandise in an oversized coat until he got out of a store. He lifted clothing, electronics, and video games for two years before getting busted by a plainclothes guard. Now that he is a Christian, Tyler never wants to steal again, but the temptation is still so strong. What standards could Tyler set that will help him not steal?

Rachel's dad died when she was eight. When she thinks about him and how much she misses him, her stomach hurts. Now that she is fifteen, she longs for male attention in her life. She started going out with boys when she was thirteen and finds herself physically attracted to them. She knows that sex outside marriage is wrong, that God wants her to save herself for her future husband, but temptation is hard to resist. Her mom is too busy working multiple jobs to keep tabs on Rachel, so she can go out with anyone she wants and stay out as late as she wants. What outer defenses can she establish to help her remain pure?

Omar lives in New York City with his father and older brother, both of whom drink heavily. Omar was saved when he was six years old, and he has continued to attend the church on the corner of his block. All the guys at high school drink beer on Friday nights, stealing liquor from their parents or mooching off their older friends. When Omar's father was out one evening, Omar's friends came over and he opened the cabinet for them, joining them for what seemed like just a few glasses. At the time it seemed like fun, but the next morning Omar vomited all over himself in bed, and his head hurt for two days. A month has passed and Omar drank with his friends three more times. He knows he shouldn't touch alcohol, but everywhere he goes it's available. Even when he visits his brother, who works at a bar, he's given a beer. What can Omar do to resist the temptation to drink?

Misbehavior Cards

Stand on top of your chair
and chat with someone
nearby.

Sing a favorite song—badly.

Loudly explain to the
teacher your unwillingness
to participate in class.

Drum randomly on
something nearby, humming
as you do.

Take a leisurely stroll around
the room.

Draw your teacher on the
chalkboard or whiteboard.

Rearrange the chairs in the
room—even if they're
occupied.

Take a nap in your chair.
Feel free to snore.

Find something to disagree
with whenever the teacher
says something.

My Defense Network

Satan's Missiles	Outer Defense	Inner Defense
Immorality		
Drinking		
Drugs and Smoking		
Laziness		
Gossip		
Anger		
Materialism		
Lust		
Other		
Other		

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