



Mercy and Grace!

Call up two volunteers for the messiest, most outrageous slimetime ever...or so you say. Tell the volunteers that they are going to be in a competition against each other but whoever loses has to stick his or her head in a bowl of syrup, hair and all. Show them a big bowl of syrup. Ask if either of them want to back out. If they do, that's okay; just choose someone else. Create some sort of simple game, like blowing up some bubblegum or who can eat a cracker the fastest or who can blow the largest bubble using a child's bubble blowing container and wand. Give the winner a prize and have him sit down. Ask the other student how he feels. Is he looking forward to sticking his head in a bowl of syrup? If he seems hesitant, remind him that he agreed to the rules of the competition and that his consequence is putting his whole head in a bowl of syrup. Of course, it will take a long time to wash it out, but that's what he deserves. Then ask everyone, "What is mercy?" Mercy is when we don't get what we deserve. He deserves the bowl of syrup, but you're going to show mercy. Even though he deserves it, he doesn't have to pay the price. Then ask everyone, "What is grace?" Mercy is when you don't get what you deserve; grace is when you get what you don't deserve. So, not only are you going to show your volunteer mercy by not having him take a plunge in the bowl of syrup, you are going to show him grace by giving him the same prize you gave the winner.

Copyright three-thirty ministries, 2008 • www.threethirtyministries.org