



Coffee Shop Grace Sketch

[Please provide: 12 women of various ages to participate in the sketch, 12 copies of this sketch (one for each actress), 10 Bibles, 10 disposable coffee cups with lids, 2 tea bags, poster board sign that says “Holy Grounds Coffee Shop,” masking tape, two long tables, 10 chairs, two chef aprons for “baristas”]

[Before presenting: Set up one long table in front of a wall in the center of the stage area. This table will serve as the “counter” in the sketch. Tape the “Holy Grounds Coffee Shop” sign on the wall behind the table. Set the coffee cups and lids and the two tea bags on the table. Set up the other long table at an angle on the left-hand side of the counter table. Set 10 chairs around this table. Give each actress a copy of this sketch. Have the baristas put on the chef aprons. Give each of the Bible study women a Bible to carry.

Setting: Holy Grounds Coffee Shop. Ten women arrive at the coffee shop in four small groups carrying Bibles, ready to gather for Bible study. As each small group enters to order coffee, they talk with one another. Two baristas stand next to one another behind the counter ready to take each customer’s coffee orders

Barista 1: [To audience] Welcome, everyone, to the Holy Grounds Coffee Shop.

Barista 2: [To audience] Our coffee shop has an interesting motto: *Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer each person.* This Bible verse, from Colossians 4:6, reminds us to show God’s grace, mercy, and love to everyone.

Barista 1: [To audience] Many of our customers use our shop to gather for Bible study and fellowship. [Shades eyes with hand and looks out toward where the customers will enter.] It looks like one of our groups is about to arrive. [Baristas 1 and 2 turn their attention toward Women 1, 2, 3 as they enter the coffee shop.]

Group One (Women 1, 2, and 3) enter the coffee shop. They chat with one another as they walk to the counter.

Woman 1: [Enthusiastically] I am so excited to dive into our Bible study, “Grace Above All.”

Woman 2: I know! It is always fun to have a reason to get together with friends and Bible study is one of the best reasons.

Woman 1: I love that this study emphasizes not only the grace and forgiveness we receive from God for Jesus’ sake, but it gives us ways that by the power of the Holy Spirit, we can share God’s grace and forgiveness with others.

Woman 3: And any day I get to have the official beverage of the LCMS with my friends is a good day! [Pauses briefly, then continues.] I was so sad to hear of the passing of Mr.

Lehman. How did the funeral go? Did you have enough desserts?

Woman 2: It was a beautiful funeral service. In his sermon, Pastor Smith did a wonderful job of sharing the sure and certain hope of eternal life we have through faith in Christ Jesus. Pastor reminded us that as a member of God's family of believers from the time he was baptized, God worked through Mr. Lehman to show the love and grace of Jesus to his family, friends, and co-workers. And yes, we did have plenty of desserts. [Pauses slightly.] But there was one thing. Mrs. Colby offered to bring a cake and she brought one from the grocery store. Can you believe it?

Woman 1: Really? Doesn't she know she's supposed to bring a homemade cake?

Woman 2: Obviously not.

Woman 3: Why is that a problem? Does it matter where the cake comes from?

Woman 2: Of course it matters. It is just lazy to go and buy a cake at the store.

Woman 3: But Mrs. Colby is a busy mom with three kids and her husband travels a lot. All of her kids are active in church and sports. Her donation should be appreciated. [Opens her Bible and flips into the New Testament.] God's Word says here in Colossians 3:23: *Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men.* She is serving the Lord no matter what kind of cake she brings. Through her donation, she shared Jesus' love with Mr. Lehman's family. She followed our Lord's example of caring for those in need.

Woman 1: [Thoughtfully taps her index finger on her forehead.] I guess I forgot how busy working moms are. I'm sorry I criticized her.

Woman 2: [Nods in agreement.] And our grocery store bakery does make a really good cake.

Group One turns their attention to the baristas behind the counter. The two baristas pantomime taking their orders and pouring the coffee into the disposable cups. After they receive their coffee cups, Group One moves over to the table to the left and sits down at the table as Women 4 and 5 (Group Two) walk in. The group members wave to one another as Group Two walks up to the counter.

Woman 4: Oh! I see some people from our group are already here. [Waves again at Group One.]

Woman 5: [Enthusiastically] Yes, I see that! [Speaks quietly.] It's a pleasure to come and have Bible study where there's no little kids around. Do you remember that noisy little boy in church last Sunday? His parents took him out of the sanctuary three times. The last time he was whining and complaining the entire way out. It was all so distracting!

Woman 4: [Thoughtfully] I remember having young kids at church. It was never easy. I admire those parents for bringing their kids to worship every week.

Woman 5: Well, my kids never behaved like that during worship.

Woman 4: [Sarcastically] Really? You know, you sound like the disciples when the people brought children to Jesus so He could bless them. [Opens her Bible and flips into the New Testament.] Here is the account of it in Mark 10. The disciples were telling those people

who were bringing their children to Jesus not to bother Him. But this made Jesus mad. Our Lord said, *“Let the little children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God”* (Mark 10:14). Jesus came for all people, young and old. He died and rose for all people, young and old. He loves everyone. Young parents need our support and love so they will continue to bring their children to worship so they can hear the word of God. God’s grace and love in our hearts helps us to welcome the little children just like our Lord Jesus did. [Pauses briefly, then continues.] I seem to recall when your kids were younger. [Chuckles] They were far from angels!

Woman 5: [Ponders what Woman 4 just said.] True, my children had their bad days too. I’m certainly glad that no one complained to me about them. I might have stopped coming to church with them. I’ll ask for God’s help to be more encouraging to all the young parents in our congregation. I’ll also ask for His help to be thankful that they and their children are there.

Group Two turns their attention to the baristas behind the counter. The two baristas pantomime taking their orders and pouring the coffee into the disposable cups. After they receive their coffee cups, Group Two moves over to the table and sits down with Group One. Group Three (Women 6 and 7) enter and wave to Groups One and Two while they walk up to the counter.

Woman 6: [Sniffs the air and smiles.] Ah, the sweet and tantalizing smell of coffee. A cup of coffee is the perfect way to start my day and get me motivated for our Bible study.

Woman 7: [Nods in agreement.] I know! Lutherans do love a strong cup of coffee.

Woman 6: True. Do you know who else could use a strong cup of coffee on Sunday mornings? The organist!

Woman 7: [Chuckles slightly, then becomes serious.] I think she does a wonderful job.

Woman 6: She does play well, but if she could only play those songs a little faster, that would be great. She seems to play every song at the same tempo: turtle.

Woman 7: I don't think "turtle" is an official music tempo. Let's appreciate her hard work and how she shares the talents God has given her to praise Him. She spends hours preparing and practicing every week. [Opens her Bible and flips to the New Testament.] When I read Ephesians 5:18b–20, I think of our organist: *but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.* She really does make music from her heart. Every time she plays, she expresses her love for Jesus and her thankfulness to Him for rescuing her from sin, death, and the devil when He died on the cross and rose again.

Woman 6: You know, you’re right. Our organist does use her talents to give glory to God. [Sighs and bows her head.] I need to ask God for help to have a more grace-filled attitude toward everyone. He shows His grace for me every day through His love and forgiveness for Jesus’ sake.

Group Three turns their attention to the baristas behind the counter. The two baristas pantomime taking their orders and pouring the coffee into the disposable cups. After they receive their coffee cups, Group Three moves over to the left hand side and sits down with Groups One and Two at the table. Group Four (Women 8 and 9) enter and wave to Groups One, Two, and Three while they walk up to the counter.

Woman 8: [Looks quizzically at the wall where the coffee shop poster is displayed.] What to order, what to order? You know, I think I'll change it up a bit today and order a cup of tea.

Woman 9: That sounds good to me, too. Is Molly going to join us?

Woman 8: I'm not sure. I invited her. Did you?

Woman 9: No. Why should I bother? Whenever I invite her to anything, she never shows up. I've invited her to our local group meetings, zone rallies, and the kitchen clean-up day. I'm surprised when she shows up to church on Sunday.

Woman 8: [Kindly] Well, we don't know why she doesn't come to any of those events. But let's keep on inviting and encouraging her. God never stops reaching out to us with His grace and mercy. He encourages us to do the same.

Woman 9: Oh, that's right, Hebrews 10:24–25. [Flips open her Bible to the New Testament.] *And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.* These words remind me to ask the Holy Spirit for His help to be an encourager to others, just as He encourages me. [Pauses slightly.] Maybe we should try inviting her to a different activity.

Woman 8: How about our blanket tying event for the homeless shelter that's coming up?

Woman 9: That is a great idea!

Group Four turns their attention to the baristas behind the counter. The two baristas pantomime taking their orders and placing a tea bag into two of the disposable cups. After they receive their cups of tea, Group Four moves over to the table and sits down with Groups One, Two, and Three. Woman 10 enters in a hurry and waves to Groups One, Two, Three, and Four as she walks up to the counter. She quickly orders a coffee. The barista hands her a cup. Woman 10 walks over to the table and takes the last seat.

Woman 10: [Hurriedly] Ladies, thanks for waiting for me. I know I am always running a little late. Your patience is so appreciated.

Woman 6: We all run behind from time to time. We are just glad you could make it.

Woman 1: Now that we are all here, let's get started. Let's begin by reading out loud Ephesians 2:4–10. These verses remind us of the wonderful grace that God shows us every day. [All women open their Bibles and together read out loud.]

All Bible study women: *But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with*

him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Barista 1: [Looks over at the table of women.] That Bible verse is so important.

Barista 2: I know. [Thinks for a moment.] Grace—that's **God's Riches At Christ's Expense**. G-R-A-C-E. All those wonderful gifts that God daily gives us, His forgiveness, faith in Him, a new eternal life and so many more, are ours because of what Jesus, our Savior did for us when He died and rose.

Barista 1: Maybe next week we could ask them to sit a bit closer to the counter. I would love to hear their Bible study.

Barista 2: I like that idea. If you want, go join them for a while right now.

Barista 1: Thanks. I think I will. [Walks over to the Bible study group as the Barista 2 pantomimes wiping off the counter.]

Barista 2: [Turns toward audience.] Perhaps you've heard similar comments to those made by the women in this sketch in your own conversations. Or, perhaps you've made some of those comments yourself. As sinful people, we may judge others. We may forget to think about the personal circumstances of others and what they may face. Just as in this sketch, in those times the Word of God reminds us to use *gracious speech*. As Ephesians 2:8–10 says: *For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.*
By the power of the Holy Spirit, may we always remember the grace we have because of Jesus. May our speech and thoughts be grace-filled, to the honor and glory of God.

Coffee Shop Grace

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