

Christian – Session 5 When Gracie Met Truthy

Discussion Questions

1. When you read the Bible (or hear it taught) and experience tension in your understanding of Jesus and how He lives and loves, is that tension something you try to resolve or are you comfortable with it?
2. What's your understanding of the word "grace" and what it represents – both as coming from God and as conveyed by us to other people?
3. What's your understanding of the word "truth" and what it represents – both as coming from God and as conveyed by us to other people?
4. What are the ways you recognize or experience tension between grace and truth? In which direction do you tend to lean?
5. In what ways have you experienced both grace and truth?

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6. Why is a “balance” between grace and truth the wrong way to think of what’s being taught in this session? What is a better way to think of the relationship between grace and truth?

Mileposts:

- When examining how Jesus loved, we find unpredictability and apparent inconsistencies. If we try to resolve this tension, we lose.
- In all His encounters with people, Jesus was always the full embodiment of *both* grace and truth. We, however, tend to see these two in tension.
- We must never let go of either truth or grace; we need *both*. The church is at its best when it embraces both and dispenses both.

Moving Forward:

Think about your own commitment and intention to extend to others both truth and grace in full measure. What does that actually mean to you? What will it require from you? We recommend that you make it your goal to reflect deeply on the full manifestation of both grace and truth in the life of Jesus. As you continue reading about Him in the New Testament, try to embrace whatever tension arises as you see the love of Jesus in action and as you seek to put it into practice in your relationships.

Changing Your Mind

These profound words reflect the reason for the tension we often encounter as we observe the surprising and unpredictable ways in which Jesus loved people.

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*The Word became flesh
and made his dwelling among us.
We have seen his glory,
the glory of the one and only Son,
who came from the Father,
full of grace and truth.
John 1:14*

Preparation for Session 6:

To help you prepare for Session 6, use these suggested devotions during the week leading up to your small group meeting.

Day 1

Focus this week on the brief stories (parables) that Jesus told in Luke 15. What is especially important to note in the background for these stories as indicated in 15:1-3?

Day 2

In the story Jesus told in Luke 15:4-7, what stands out to you? What do you relate to the most in this little story? What do you enjoy the most?

Day 3

In the story Jesus told in Luke 15:8-10, what stands out most to you? What do you relate to most in this story? What do you enjoy most?

Day 4

In the final story in Luke 15 (in Luke 15:11-32), what do you see as Jesus' main points? What would the audience that day be most surprised to hear in this story?

Day 5

What do you see as the strongest ways in which the three stories in Luke 15 link together?