

Journey CHURCH

Pastor James Greer

James@jcpineville.com

www.jcpineville.com



Session 5 Leader Guide

WATCH

Refer to this viewer guide as you watch video session 5.

Truth without grace is fundamentalism. Grace without truth is just sentimentality.

Your neighbors don't think they need saving from their sins. They think they need saving from you.

Your words can never be stronger than your relationships.

In Christ you have God's kind company that redeems not only your soul but also gives you a meaning and a purpose and a grace within that trial.

In this post-Christian world, we need to approach people in a way that is wide open and regular, not circumstantial and boundaried.

If you love what your neighbor loves, you're going to find some point at which you can serve them.

The first thing lost people think about us is condemnation, not compassion.

When you ask Jesus to enter a conversation with an unbeliever at the table, it's not to stop the conversation. It's to enrich it.

DISCUSS

Read John 1:14

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. We observed his glory, the glory as the one and only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. JOHN 1:14

- 1) Jesus had a ministry filled with both grace and truth. Where in Scripture do we see both at work? What happens when these attributes are out of balance in our ministries?**

Truth without grace is fundamentalism. Grace without truth is sentimentality. Jesus possessed grace and truth in equal measure. He was so concerned with our souls that He left the comforts of heaven to come and give both grace and truth to a world that was broken and hurting.

- 2) Read John 4:1-26. How do you see Jesus express grace and truth in His interaction with the woman at the well?**
- 3) How did Jesus form a connection with this woman? What can we learn from the way He treated her?**

In this account we see grace and truth in balance. Jesus approached this woman, entered a conversation with her, asked her for a favor, and spoke to her heart. At the same time, He didn't hesitate to speak the truth. He confronted her when necessary, but this confrontation came within a context that let her know that He cared. Our interactions with nonbelievers need to reflect the balance of grace and truth that Jesus expressed.

In a world that's increasingly hostile to the gospel, grace needs to precede truth in our conversations with people who've rejected Jesus, because our words will never be stronger than our relationships.

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- 4) **Would you describe your relationships with people as open and regular or circumstantial and boundaried? Why?**
- 5) **How could changing the way you approach lost people open up gospel opportunities for you?**

A simple change you can make that shows people you care is to be available. Most of us are overscheduled and tired. Perhaps the most obvious and correctable way to be more gracious is simply to make yourself available to people. Because openness is uncommon in our culture, it stands out. Being willing to be present with someone may be all that's needed for a meaningful conversation to occur. As Christians, we need to be known for the same kind of compassion that characterized our Savior.

- 6) **What are a few ways you can serve in your neighborhood or your larger community?**

On the video Vance Pitman and Rosaria Butterfield described ways they've served their communities. Before people care about what you know, they need to know you care. Acts of service break down boundaries and allow us to enter places we may never have gone before, thereby enabling people to encounter the grace of Christ in the lives of His people.

- 7) **Is anyone in the group already involved in serving your community? If so, how has service created an opportunity for you to get to know someone?**

This session's video captured the perspectives of two believers who are showing the love of Christ from two completely different backgrounds. Yet both are committed to embodying the grace and truth of Jesus in order to care for the people around them.

- 8) **The speakers on this session's video shared their experiences forming relationships with people who are far from God. What do you think keeps more Christians from developing relationships this way?**
- 9) **What changes could you make in order to build more gospel bridges to the lost people around you?**