

Journey CHURCH

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Messy Grace session 2: Truth Leader Guide

Icebreaker

What is one thing that has been on your mind from last week's session that you would be willing to share with the group?

Reflection #1

1. Sam says, "Even if we didn't have Leviticus and Romans 1 and 1 Corinthians 6, we would still know what to think about homosexuality." Based on what Sam says, does the Bible clearly address the issue on homosexuality?
2. How can truth be used to treat people in an un-Christ-like manner?
3. In what ways have you experienced people using truth to marginalize people in the LGBT community? How do you think Jesus would react to this?
4. Why do you think it's important to balance grace and truth when it comes to the LGBT issue?

Reflection #2

5. Caleb talked about his friend who said "natural" is whatever is natural for the person. How is this a dangerous way to think?

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Read Together 2 John 1:1-9 (NIV)

The elder,
To the lady chosen by God and to her children, whom I love in the truth- and not I only, but also all who know the truth- because of the truth, which lives in us and will be with us forever:

Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and from Jesus Christ, the Father's Son, will be with us in truth and love.

It has given me great joy to find some of your children walking in the truth, just as the Father commanded us. And now, dear lady, I am not writing you a new command but one we have had from the beginning. I ask that we love one another. And this is love: that we walk in obedience to his commands. As you have heard from the beginning, his command is that you walk in love.

I say this because many deceivers, who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh, have gone out into the world. Any such person is the deceiver and the antichrist. Watch out that you do not lose what we have worked for, but that you may be rewarded fully. Anyone who runs ahead and does not continue in the teachings of Christ does not have God; whoever continues in the teaching has both the Father and the Son.

6. What theme is repeated in these verses? Why do you think John is so overt in expressing the importance for the truth of these verses?
7. What point do you think John is trying to make in this passage? How is this passage relevant to what we have studied so far in this series?
8. Why do you think some people sacrifice truth for the sake of grace?
9. In what areas do you struggle with not holding to truth for the sake of grace when it comes to the LGBT community or people who are living a different lifestyle than you?

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Reflection #3

10. Caleb gives the example of a parent that knows what's best for their children. Why do we struggle with the fact that God knows what's best for us?
11. How have you personally experienced a good result of having boundaries in your life?
12. Caleb said that God knows the whole picture. How does understanding that God sees the whole picture help us trust his truth?

Read Together Romans 6:1-7 (NIV)

What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with,^[a] that we should no longer be slaves to sin- because anyone who has died has been set free from sin.

13. How does this passage help you understand the interplay between grace and truth?
14. According to these verses, what is the result of living by grace and truth? How does that encourage you when it comes to your interactions with the LGBT community?

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Discuss Memory Verse

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come. The old has gone, and the new is here!

Discussion Notes

There are many reasons we compromise on God's truth. For example, we sometimes compromise when we are in the midst of a stressful situation. Think of some scenarios where you are tempted to refrain from sharing truth with others. (Give group time to think of some and examples and ask them to share what they have come up with).

John 8:32 says, "And the truth shall set you free." Are there any other promises and truths from God that can help you share truth with people in the midst of the scenarios you mentioned above?

Closing Prayer

Lord, thank you that your truth sets us free. Forgive us Lord for the many times we have sought to find freedom in the things of this world. Forgive us for the ways we have manipulated your truth to satisfy our own positions. Give us courage to speak your truth in love to those you put in our path who are "far off." Help us to grow, stand and express the relevance of your truth. In your powerful name, Jesus.

Amen.