

## Messy Grace Session 3: Grace Viewer Guide

1. In the last session, we studied how an improper understanding of the interplay between grace and truth can lead to a compromise of the truth. In what ways can this improper understanding lead to a lack of grace?
2. Sam says, “The problem isn’t Christian extremism. The solution would be Christian extremism. If we were extreme about loving our neighbor...the world would be a far better place.” How can we live out “Christian extremism” in today’s culture?
3. Why do you think people tend to withhold grace from those who are different than them? Why do you think the Christian community has struggled with giving grace to the LGBT community?
4. Caleb shared the story of his elders saying, “We don’t like those people.” Who are “those people” that we marginalize in our society?
5. What is revealed about our view of God when we exclude people by not extending them grace? What is revealed about our own hearts?
6. In what ways do you have a hard time extending grace to the LGBT community? What other people do you have a hard time extending grace to?

7. In the culture of Jesus' day, Jews were not to associate with Samaritans. In fact, most Jews took extraordinary measure to avoid Samaritans. In what different ways would the Jews and Samaritans have reacted if they were aware of the interaction in these verses?
8. What particular words of Jesus in this passage emphasize his grace filled response?
9. How can you apply His words in your interactions with those who are different?
10. How does this verse challenge you?
11. Some people don't give grace because they're afraid others may think it's an approval of sin. How have you seen this play out when Christians withhold grace from the LGBT community?
12. How does trusting that God is just and in control help us give grace to those to whom we find it hard to give?
13. What main idea is Jesus trying to get across in these verses?
14. Caleb says, "If we devalue another person, then we are really devaluing the grace that He offers to them." How is showing grace to those who are different then you reflective of Jesus?