

BIG IDEA

Grace & truth is our only hope for a Jesus like appeal.

WHAT DOES GOD WANT ME TO KNOW?

Has Christianity lost its appeal to the people you know? How can you tell?

Read Matthew 9:9-13. How does Jesus demonstrate the elements of extraordinary appeal we heard about in the message this week?

1. Start with humanity instead of Christianity.
2. Invite people to belong before they believe.
3. Hold to truth but lead with grace.

Most people at this time saw tax collectors as cheats, thieves, and traitors. Jesus looked beyond the taboos associated with his profession and invited him to follow him. When the religious people in his community took notice, Jesus doesn't deny that he is in company with broken people. Rather, he chooses to focus on the importance of mercy and his call to bring healing.

What other stories in the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) come to mind when you think of Jesus' extraordinary appeal?

Scott mentioned the woman caught in adultery during the message (John 8:1-11). Jesus' encounter with Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10) is also a great example. Some in your group may remember Jesus' interaction with the Samaritan woman (John 4).

WHAT IS MY INITIAL REACTION?

What is appealing to you about your faith?

Reflect on your interactions with people who don't believe the way you do. Are your interactions characterized more by grace? truth? Or a combination of both?

Do you allow people to belong to your community before they believe what you think they should?

Consider whether your Life Group would be a safe place for someone who doesn't yet believe in Jesus to belong.

Read John 1:14. What are the dangers of 'loading up' on just truth? What are the dangers of 'loading up on just grace?





LIFE GROUPS

LEADER GUIDE

Truth-heavy approaches lack in mercy and bring shame, guilt, and isolation to those who are not yet in relationship with Jesus. Grace-only approaches back away from sharing truth with people who desperately need to be set free from the brokenness they live in.

Do people who know you find your faith appealing?

WHAT AM I GOING TO DO?

Make a list of things you find appealing about Jesus. Make a list of things you find unappealing about Christians. Where can we as followers of Jesus be better at looking like Jesus?

Read Acts 2:42-47. What aspects of this passage do we as a Life Group need to work on?

