

V

Gracious
S p a c e

One Truth
Part Two

Review

Part 1 - Breaking Barriers Between Us

- The first step in fostering gracious space is to recognize the barriers we put up that limit authentic connection.

Part 2 - Bear (put up) With One Another

- “Bear with each other”, “make allowance for each other’s faults,” “put up with” and “be tolerant with one another.”

Part 3 - A Place for CHE

- Curiosity - inquisitive interest in others' concerns
- Humility - understanding the proper level of ones significance
- Empathy - being sensitive to the feelings, thoughts, and experiences of another

Part 4 - 1 Truth 7.7 Billion Perspectives

- Beliefs about the Bible and what the Bible teaches shift throughout our lives
- Jesus did not change the Law (Torah) but he did offer a new perspective or interpretation
- What is clear and simple and true for some people, may not be the same for others (The Dress experiment)
- Do we read the Bible to support beliefs, or discover beliefs?

Gracious Space: One Truth Part Two

Taking some time to “be still” and recognize God is with you, around you, before you, and after you... positions your heart and mind to receive the wisdom and discernment of the Spirit.

Now is the time to try and foster a teachable spirit, to be open to new learning, and what the Spirit has to say to you right now, in this moment. Try some intentional breathing or the Psalm meditation online. Sense your body relaxing and becoming present and ready to hear God speak.

RESOURCE: [Presence of God Meditation](#)

Continue now, giving space for yourself and others to journey into the Father’s Words, the Spirit’s Presence, and the love, grace, and passion of the Son.

Gracious Space: One Truth Part Two

Who wrote the Bible?

To whom was written?

What does it mean when Christians say
the Bible is “authoritative”?

Take some time to reflect on “authority”
and how the Bible has been used *authoritatively* in the past.

Has the Bible’s authority ever been misused? How?

Have you ever heard someone say “the Bible says so”?

Have you said it?

What might be strange about this phrase?

Gracious Space: One Truth Part Two

At KCC, we believe that we are called to participate with God in restoring His creation to what it was meant to be.

In carrying out this mission, we all may use and engage Scripture a bit differently and for different reasons.

Reflect or discuss your own journey into understanding what the Bible *is*, and *is for*.

What has changed over the years?

Has anything changed?

What unique perspectives do you bring to the reading of the Bible?

Think about the questions from last session.

Scripture:

Read Matthew 13:31-36

We discussed last session that Jesus may have been causing some controversy with his new interpretation of “the Law”.

Now we see Jesus teaching the crowd by telling stories and metaphors that have hidden meanings.

Why do you think Jesus was using parables to teach the crowds?

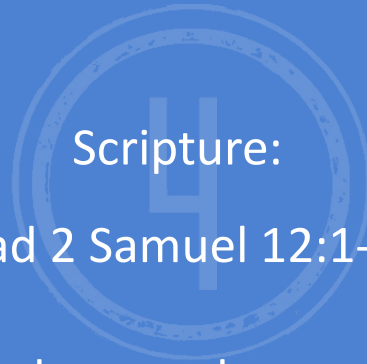
Why do you think Jesus would wait and only reveal the meaning of His parables to his disciples?

If you have the time, read earlier in verses 10-17 to see Jesus explain why he teaches in parables. What's interesting about the way Jesus explains it?

Jesus's parables often acted as riddles that sometimes even shocked the listeners.

What advantages (and disadvantages) are there, in teaching with stories?

What's your favourite Bible story? Why?



Scripture:

Read 2 Samuel 12:1-10

What's interesting about the way the prophet Nathan confronted King David?

How might have David reacted differently if Nathan had started with a straight-up, in-his-face rebuke?

Rebuke - an expression of sharp disapproval or criticism

Have you ever been rebuked?

If you feel safe to do so, reflect on or share some stories in your group, of how it felt.

Was it effective?

Did you change your behaviour?

Why or why not?

Theology - the study of the nature of God and religious belief

Both, in the Sermon on the Mount, and in his parables,
Jesus is teaching theology.

So instead of clearly spelling out the rules and interpreting how
to follow each of the 613 commandments from “the Law”,
Jesus seemed more interested in leading people to the heart of
God.

Have you ever thought, “it sure would be nice if the Bible
had an answer for this one specific problem”?

Reflect or discuss some “specific problems”
you wished the Bible addressed more directly.

What might be the advantage to Christians,
that the Bible does NOT spell out answers to specific problems?

RESOURCE: [Bill Johnson on parables \(6mins\)](#)

Gracious Space: One Truth Part Two

Think again back to the last session.
We all come to the Bible with a unique perspective.

Have you noticed how your own *culture* and *upbringing* have affected certain beliefs about the Bible?

Have you discovered any *long-held beliefs* that turned out weren't really biblical?

What might be problematic if we read the Bible looking for *answers* for *specific questions* and *problems*?

What if the Bible was never meant to be a rule book, but rather or an expansive story?

What would be the difference between hearing and applying truths from an authoritative *rule book* compared to trustworthy and expansive *story*?

Scripture:

Read Psalm 78:1-4

Where have you heard this scripture before?

How can reading the Bible as a big story
(revealing the mysteries from the beginning of time),
help in understanding its truths?

Imagine you are reading the most amazing story ever.
When you get to the final chapter you realize it's left blank,
except for a simple instruction:

"Would you please write the final chapter with me"

How might this view of the *Bible* shift the way we read it?

The final questions on the next page may not have clear answers. It is REALLY important to take time to ponder and/or discuss them humbly and prayerfully.

Why do I read the Bible?



Am I looking for rules to live by?

Would I rather I be *told* a truth,
or *discover* one?

What might be some examples of authoritative truths
from the Bible *story*?

Gracious Space is about recognizing we are all on our own unique
journey into discovering the mysteries of the Bible.

Does any one person have the *authority*
to say “the Bible says so”?

(It’s interesting that people often say “the Bible says so”,
instead of “God says so”.)

What might God be saying to you right now?

Gracious Space



Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Hebrews 4:16

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