

Part One // Scott Landry // December 3, 2023

What we all want for Christmas is the very thing we hope no one asks us for. When we're on the receiving end of this gift, it is extraordinarily refreshing. When it's a gift we have to give to someone else, it is extraordinarily disturbing. This gift can be summed up in one word—grace.

Scripture: John 1:14

Bottom Line: Grace is the undeserved, unearned, unearnable favor that Jesus came to offer us.

Getting Started:

- 1. When we find something attractive, we want it to be true. Why do you think many people have trouble seeing Jesus/Christianity as attractive?
- 2. Has your experience with Christianity been more focused on grace or truth? How did that focus affect your view of Jesus? How did it affect your view of yourself?

Diving In:

Read John 1:14

- 3. Scott shared that, "grace can only be experienced in the context of a relationship." Why was Jesus coming to earth an essential part of God's plan to give us grace?
- 4. As a friend of Jesus and eyewitness to his ministry, what do you think John meant by "We have seen his glory?"
- 5. What is the difference between keeping a balance of grace and truth and being <u>full</u> of grace and truth? Do you find yourself trying to keep the two in balance? Who is that easiest with? Who is that hardest with? Why do you think that is?
- 6. Scott shared that, "Jesus never watered down the truth or turned down the grace." Which way do you tend to lean when confronted with someone else's sin?

Moving Forward:

Like life, grace is not fair. It's better than fair. It is freeing.

Over and over Jesus leaned into and toward unrepentant sinners. He leaned toward guilty people. It was messy and made no sense.

It was grace.

In the person of Jesus, God has extended grace his undeserved, unearned, unearnable favor. Take some time as a Circle in prayer thanking God for this grace.

This week, write John 1:14 on a card to remind you, especially in this season, of the reason Jesus came - for *you*.