

**Thanks for checking out our sermon-based Study Guides!** If you’ve never used our Study Guides before, you’ll find some basic instructions beginning at the bottom of page 2.

# Sermon-BASED Study Guide

for the sermon preached on November 7, 2021

“When ‘My Pleasure’ Is Not Enough” – John 2



This week we conclude our fall series “Rhythm.” The topics and rhythms explored in this season included rest and work, our public and private lives, worship and witness, the present and the future, thinking and acting, loving our own and loving others, and our body and soul. The final message set the scenario of when we find ourselves trying to decide between “being nice” or “saying it like it is” in difficult conversations. Both options have their limits and potential negative consequences. Fortunately Jesus gives us a model in challenging moments and that is the rhythm between grace and truth.

**Group Discussion Questions**

Q – Whether it be about vaccinations, wearing masks, or any other challenging issue facing us, we have all had to make the decision to either avoid the conversation by “playing nice” or jump right in and “saying it like it is.” What do you find yourself defaulting more regularly to? What have been the frustrations you have experienced with either of these approaches?

Q – Pastor Tim recounted Jesus’ approach in the accounts of the Wedding at Cana and Jesus clearing the temple in John 2. Earlier in chapter 1, John describes Jesus like this:

“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, **full of grace and truth**.” John 1:14.

To help us understand these often-used terms, we are defining them as follows:

“Grace – The Redemptive Work Only God Can Do.

Truth – Jesus’ Message of his Kingdom Reality”

Read each story separately and identify for yourself examples of grace and truth with the above lens. Where do you see grace, where do you see truth? (John 2:1-12 and 2:13-25)

*(For help in bringing the question to a close:*

*In Jesus changing the water to wine:*

***“Grace is the redemptive work that only God can do*** *– only Jesus could have changed the water to wine.****The truth – the Kingdom message here is that in God’s Kingdom is not just about saving a family’s reputation but God’s provision is greater than anything that can be found in this world.”***

*In Jesus clearing the temple:*

***“The grace – as in the redemptive work that only the Lord can do … the clearing of the temple to restore its integrity for this Passover for true worshippers of God.***

***The truth – is the Kingdom message that that through Jesus’ death and resurrection, he is the new temple****.”)*

Q – One of the challenging aspects of this rhythm is that we need to extend grace and truth not only to others but also extend it to ourselves. How can we grow in this rhythm of being full of grace and truth outward and inward?

Q – The message concluded with the context of finding this rhythm of grace and truth as we gather with family and friends around the holiday. We have all had difficult and painful conversations with loved ones and friends and we face the decision of avoiding serious conversation or having heated arguments. While becoming more informed and using logic will be a help, what could potentially change if we relied more on the work of God and allowed ourselves to be filled with that type of grace and truth. (might be a good idea to refer back to those definitions: “Grace” as The Redemptive Work Only God Can Do and “Truth” as Jesus’ Message of his Kingdom Reality”).

**How to Use These Study Guides:**

* Consider sending out the Scripture passage to your group members ahead of time.
* Begin each meeting with a short time of checking in with one another.
* You may want to begin the discussion by reading the Scripture passage together out loud, or by summarizing the passage if everyone has read it ahead of time.
* Don’t feel like you need to discuss every question included in the Study Guide. Pick one or two to start with, and see how the conversation flows.
* If your group meets over Zoom:
	+ You may need to do more overt facilitating over Zoom than you would in person. Feel free to call on people to invite them to share.
	+ Try to be sensitive to attention spans over Zoom—keep the meetings shorter than they would be in person.
* Be sure to set aside time for sharing prayer requests and praying together.

**Group Leader Support:** Please reach out to your Campus Pastor or your Coach if you have any questions about leading your group or concerns about your group dynamic. If you have questions about or feedback on the Study Guides, please reach out to Pastor Tim or Pastor Rachel from the Group Life team.