

- Seeing Jesus for who He really is helps us see the **grace** He really offers.
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
Jesus went around in Galilee. He did not want to go about in Judea because the Jewish leaders there were looking for a way to kill him. John 7:1
...grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. 2 Peter 3:18
- We can't passively engage with Jesus; our hearts will either seek to **kill** Him or **crown** Him as Lord.
The world cannot hate you, but it hates me because I testify that its works are evil. John 7:7
...the flesh is hostile to God; it doesn't submit, and it cannot. Romans 8:7

- Crowning Jesus Lord requires a decision of the **will**, but seeking to eliminate Him only requires **indecision**.
1 Jesus returned to the Mount of Olives, 2 but early the next morning he was back again at the Temple. A crowd soon gathered, and he sat down and taught them. 3 As he was speaking, the teachers of religious law and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in the act of adultery. They put her in front of the crowd. 4 "Teacher," they said to Jesus, "this woman was caught in the act of adultery. 5 The law of Moses says to stone her. What do you say?" 6 They were trying to trap him into saying something they could use against him, but Jesus stooped down and wrote in the dust with his finger. 7 They kept demanding an answer, so he stood up again and said, "All right, but let the one who has never sinned throw the first stone!" 8 Then he stooped down again and wrote in the dust. 9 When the accusers heard this, they slipped away one by one, beginning with the oldest, until only Jesus was left in the middle of the crowd with the woman. 10 Then Jesus stood up again and said to the woman, "Where are your accusers? Didn't even one of them condemn you?" 11 "No, Lord," she said. And Jesus said, "Neither do I. Go and sin no more." John 8:1-11

Religion vs. Jesus

- Religion accuses; Jesus meets us in our **brokenness**.
"Teacher," they said to Jesus, "this woman was caught in the act..." John 8:4
- Religion brings humiliation; Jesus brings **humility**.
"The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group." John 8:3
...Didn't even one of them condemn you?" 11 "No, Lord," she said. And Jesus said, "Neither do I. Go and sin no more." John 8:10b-11
- Religion leaves people in shame; Jesus invites them to a **new life**.

What it means to be people of grace.

- People of grace see others through the eyes of **love**, not judgment.
Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. 1 Peter 4:8
If someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently... Galatians 6:1

- People of grace **offer others** what they have received from Jesus.
Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. Ephesians 4:32
"Freely you have received; freely give." — Matthew 10:8
- People of grace speak **life**, not shame.
"Neither do I condemn you... Go and sin no more." — John 8:11
- People of grace **stay** when others walk away.
"I will never leave you nor forsake you." — Hebrews 13:5
"A friend loves at all times." — Proverbs 17:17

Addition Notes:

VISION:

**TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE
IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.**

Questions that can be used in Connection Groups:

These questions also work well for personal time with God.

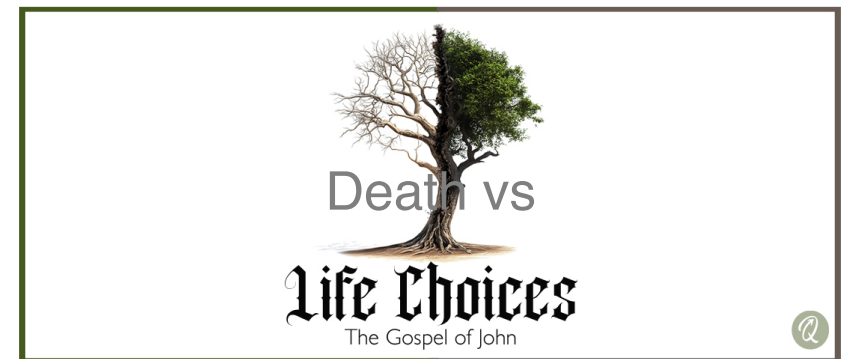
- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Explain.
- How does acknowledging the deity of Jesus help us see the grace He really offers us?
- What does it mean that Jesus was full of grace and truth?
- In your own words, why do we need God's grace?
- What stands out to you in this story of the woman caught in adultery?
- Discuss the points under the sub-heading: "Religion vs Jesus." (*It's the difference between a religious heart and a gracious heart*)
- Why is it so important that we be people of grace?
- How are we able to see others with love rather than judgment?
- What have we received from Jesus that we can give to others?
- What are some ways we can speak life into others?
- Why is our commitment to people important when others walk away?

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Opportunities to experience community:



Today's Talk..



How to be people of grace.

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Sunday, December 14th, 2025