



## Part #2 // Jeff Brodie // October 2, 2022

*In a time when truth was used as a weapon and grace was seen as weak, Jesus seemed to be able to cut through the tension and really impact people's lives in a hostile environment. How did he do it? The early church looked at Jesus's approach and constantly challenged themselves to hold grace and truth at the same time, especially to those who were discovering faith. What would it look like to live like that in your world? Some might say your life would look scandalous.*

**Bottom Line:** Look through the lens of truth and grace.

**Scripture:** [John 8:1-11 NLT](#) // [John 1:17 NIV](#) // [Acts 15:5-21 NLT](#)

### Getting Started:

1. After last Sunday's message, did you have an opportunity to open your door, your calendar, or a seat? Did you step out to be FOR someone? What happened?
2. What part of Jeff's message spoke to you this week? How so?

### Diving In:

3. Jeff shared a number of examples of moments where Jesus spoke grace and truth into a challenging situation. Read [John 8:1-11](#) as just one illustration. (If you want other examples, take a look at [Luke 18:18-23](#) and [Luke 23:32-43](#).) What speaks to you about the scandalous thing Jesus did in responding to the woman? How does it impact you?
4. Our culture often focuses on what we deserve or what someone else deserves. It can feel transactional. Where do you see this most often in your life?
5. Read [John 1:17](#). Jesus' truth and grace approach is more transformational. That's what's shocking about it. Share a couple examples of conversations or relationships you struggle with on a regular basis. Brainstorm as a group how you could approach these situations with grace and truth. What difference could this make?
6. Read [Acts 15:5-21](#). Here you see an example of the early church wrestling with the importance of making space for people who were new to faith ("turning to God"). Jeff shared some examples of how Connexus strives to do this. What resonated? What challenged you about these? Did anything surprise you?

7. Sometimes reaching people who aren't like you means giving up our preferences or being uncomfortable. Can you think of a recent opportunity you had to do that?
8. Which is harder for you to do—being gracious or being truthful? Why? How can you lean into the one that is more difficult for you, without leaving the other behind?
9. Who in your life do you think you need to approach through the lens of truth and grace?
10. Read [Romans 10:14-15](#) again this week, and take a moment to pray for those around you who need you to be Jesus to them. Pray that God would give you an opportunity to share your faith or invite them.

**Moving Forward:**

As we look to open our doors, our calendars, or a seat, let's look to incorporate an approach of truth and grace. Who do you need to reach out to with truth and grace? People won't know that Jesus is FOR them until they know that you are FOR them.