



TRUTH | GRACE

T TRUTH

God has a good, pleasing, and perfect will for our lives. (Rom. 12:2)

G GRACE

When we're tempted to put our own happiness above others, God invites us to an honest conversation about what it is we think we want. (Prov. 11:2)

T TRUTH

Only God can meet our unmet expectations. (Ps. 37:4)

G GRACE

Everyone, at one time or another, looks outside of God to other relationships to fill his place. (i.e.: 2 Sam. 11:2-3)

ABOUT THIS SERIES

Jesus does not condemn people when they fail, but he did bring with him higher standards of living. With this higher standard comes a deeper grace. The Christian life is one that is built upon an ideal plan God had for our everyday life. The tension of grace and truth is most often felt in the family.





START

Let's dig.
Read it for yourself.

READ EXAMPLES TOGETHER

Re-read James 4:1-4

1. Why do you think we don't ask God for the things we want? (v. 2)
2. When we do ask God for things we want, what do you think James means that we "ask with the 'wrong motives'" ? (v. 3)

James says that "friendship with the world" is one of the reasons we aren't given the things we ask for. (v.4) The Message version of James 4:4 says it this way: "If all you want is your own way, flirting with the world every chance you get, you end up enemies of God and his way."

- How would you describe the difference between wanting something your own way and wanting something God's way?



02

WHAT'S GOING ON INSIDE OF ME?

When we find ourselves in conflict, it can be hard to slow down. It can be even harder to own a piece of the "problem pie".

- What is a disagreement you've had recently?
- Can you see how you had a part to play in the issues at hand?
- Did your happiness increase or decrease after that conversation happened?

WHO HAS YOUR HAPPY?

- Who are you handing your happiness to? And why do you think giving them your happiness is a good idea?

EXTRA CREDIT | HOMEWORK

LET'S PLAY THE BLAME GAME

Read the following verse below:

"Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." (Ge 3:11-13.)

Blame goes back to the very beginning.

- Who did the man (Adam) blame?
- Who did the woman (Eve) blame?
- God doesn't blame anyone. Instead, what does he do?

"And the Lord God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them." (Ge. 3:21)

Sure, natural consequences for sin occur (Gen. 3:13-20), but God's response is to cover their shame — not to blame.



DOES GOD CARE ABOUT MY HAPPINESS?

READ ALOUD

1. GOD'S PEOPLE ARE HAPPY PEOPLE.

Happy are the people whose God is the Lord. (Ps. 144:15, NCV)

2. GOODNESS AND MERCY ARE GOD'S GOOD IDEA FOR YOUR LIFE.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever (PS. 23:6, ESV).

3. GOD WANTS MORE FOR YOU THAN YOU WANT FOR YOU.

So you'll go out in joy,
you'll be led into a whole and complete life. (Is. 55:13)
