

### TRUTH | GRACE

**T**

#### TRUTH

You can't choose your family.

**G**

#### GRACE

Jesus chose you.

**T**

#### TRUTH

There are clear instructions of how to love our families in the Bible, but there are no perfect examples.

**G**

#### GRACE

Perfection isn't required, but pursuit of the biblical ideal is essential to healthy families.

### 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.

### INSTRUCTION SUMMARY

Children: Obey (Eph. 6:1-2)

Wives: Submit (Col. 3:18)

Husbands: Love and respect (Col. 3:19)

Parents: Don't aggravate (Col. 3:21)





**START**

Let's dig.  
Read it for yourself.

### READ EXAMPLES TOGETHER

**Read Gen. 2:15-17.**

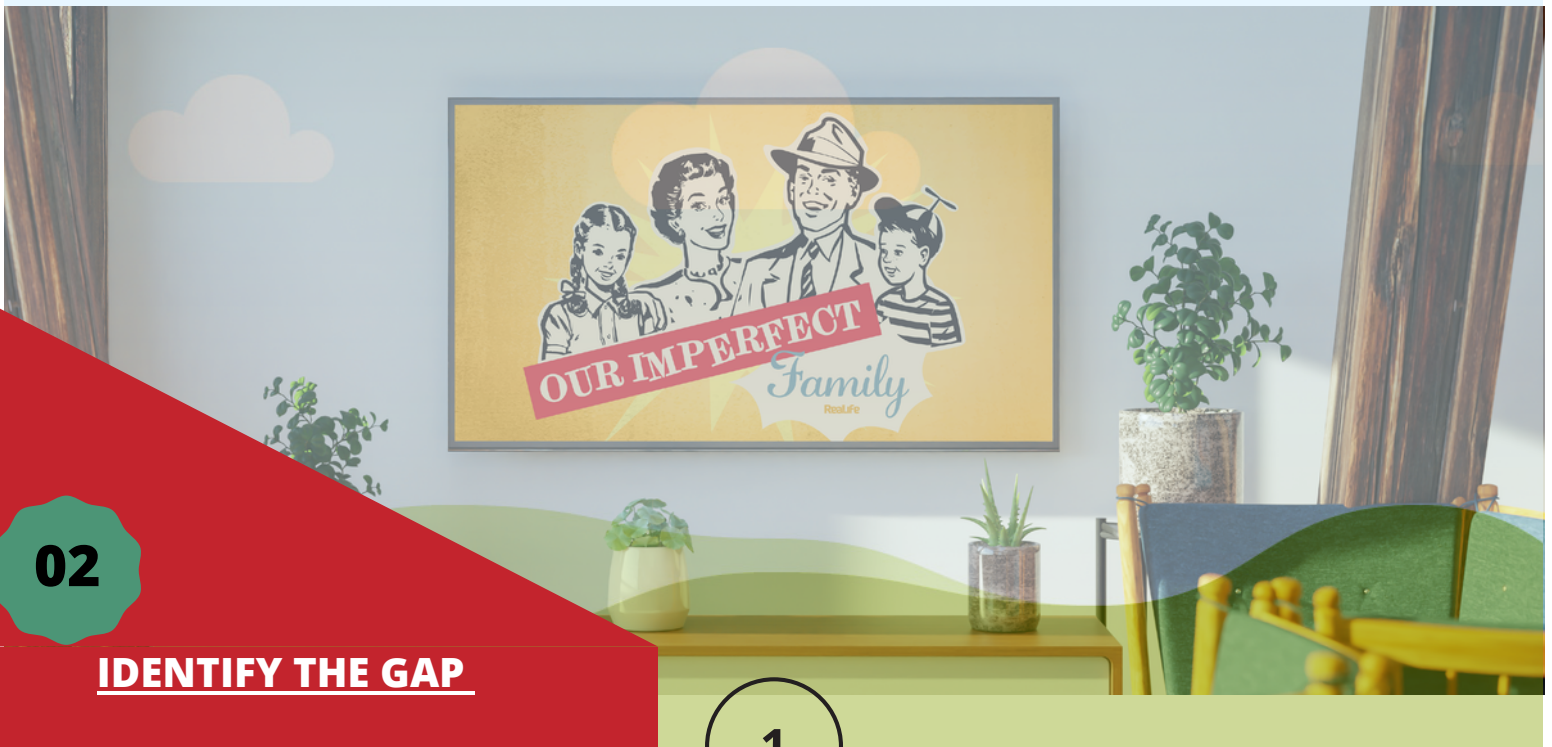
1. What did God envision man would do in the Garden? (v. 15)
2. What did God command Man to do? (v. 16)
3. What did he command him *not* to do? (v. 17)
4. Why did he command him "not to eat"? (v.17)
5. God gave Man "every tree of the garden", except one.

**Why do you think God's loving limitations are often seen as restrictive instead of protective?**

**Read Gen. 4:9-12.**

1. Cain has just murdered his brother. What do you think of Cain's response to God's question in verse 9?
2. Why do you think Cain murdered his brother?

**Read Genesis 4:25-26.** God's response to the Abel's murder was to give Adam and Eve another son, Seth. **What does that tell you about the grace of God and his heart for children and family?**



02

### IDENTIFY THE GAP

For those who follow Jesus, we must manage the tension between living our lives according to the truth of biblical ideals alongside a realistic understanding of our own shortcomings and need for grace.

- **Where do you most see the gap between God's ideal for loving your family and the reality of how you are living that out?**

(Note: The Instruction Summary on Page 1 lists the verses Pastor Kyle mentioned if you would like a refresher or want to read them outloud).

- **What is area you know you've been settling for less than the ideal standard God has for our families and relationships?**

1

### JESUS IS OUR GREAT EXAMPLE

Read the following verse below and keep in mind the Cain and Abel story from Gen. 4:9-12. Jesus and the original audience would have known that story very well.

**"You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'You shall not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.' But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment."**

- Do you think Jesus is being realistic or overstating?
- Why do you think he says that avoiding anger should be the new standard?
- What is your relationship with anger towards those in your family or in your marriage?
- How do you think Jesus helps us in our anger? Share an example of what that help looked like.





### WHAT'S SO GREAT ABOUT GRACE

#### 1. REMEMBER WHO GOD IS.

But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness. Turn to me and be gracious to me; give your strength to your servant, and save the son of your maidservant. (Ps 86:15–16.)

#### 2. REMEMBER WHAT HE HAS DONE

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (Jn 1:14.)

#### 3. RECEIVE WHAT YOU'VE BEEN GIVEN

For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. (Jn 1:16–17.)

#### 4. RESPOND WITH HUMILITY AND LOVE

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. (Eph 2:8–9.)

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace, (1 Pe 4:10.)