

- 1. What stood out to you most from Sunday's message? Why?
- 2. Within your group, give each person two minutes to share a little about their faith background.
- 3. How does that background or context influence how you approach or read the bible?

Holiness is usually defined as separate, to be morally different or set apart from the surrounding cultures. It takes on additional nuance as being a characteristic that reflects God. During this week's message, Pastor John highlighted one aspect of this character—God's ability to make room for others. Too often we draw boundaries, giving preference to judgement, law and difference. Instead, God makes room for us by balancing grace and truth, law and love.

John 1:14 states, "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*."

- 4. What does it look like to preference one—grace or truth—over the other?
- 5. How does this balance of grace and truth, revealed in Jesus, make room for others? How does it help others find belonging?
- 6. Is there a difference between fitting in and belonging? If so, what?
- 7. Read Matthew 9:9-12. How does Jesus demonstrate grace and truth in this passage?
- 8. How do the Pharisees respond to Jesus' actions? Consider Jesus' critique of the Pharisees in Matthew 23:13.
- 9. On a scale of 1 to 10, one being mostly grace and ten being mostly truth, which side of the scale do you often find yourself? Does it differ depending on the relationship? Why?
- 10. When you think about your relationships, are there people on whom you are shutting the door—you've refused to balance grace and truth?
- 11. What might help you develop a better balance of grace and truth, law and love?
- 12. How can the group be praying for you this week?