



# Grace OR Truth

...as it relates to that child who just won't be quiet...  
and just won't sit still...and just won't pay attention...  
and just won't.....

I think we'd all pretty much agree that kids - no matter what country, no matter what era - are pretty much the same. Sure, there are some differences, but bottom line, kids are kids. They love to laugh. They love to wrestle. They love to be loud and crazy. They love to have fun. Lots of it! While I've never traveled in time, I think it's a pretty safe bet to say that the same is true of kids who lived during Jesus' time.

So... why did Jesus ever say, "Let the children come to Me" ?? Didn't He know that they would act up, misbehave, wouldn't sit still, and would definitely not pay attention through the whole Sermon on the Mount!?!?! How would Jesus have handled that child who wouldn't be quiet, who wouldn't sit still, who wouldn't pay attention? A verse in John 1 sticks out to me:

"For the law was given by Moses,  
but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ."

Grace AND Truth. Normally, I think of a situation where I demonstrate Grace OR Truth. Not both. Why? ...because exhibiting both takes work! Exhibiting both at the same time...well, that's exhausting!! Isn't it?

And yet, can you picture Jesus blowing up at a kid who was goofing off? At the same time, and on the flip side, can you picture Jesus allowing a kid to disrupt and distract all the other kids? See my point? Grace AND Truth. Normally, it's not a combination that we think of. However, it is the ideal recipe for teaching and training our kids in the most effective way.

One more note on this subject. It's interesting to me to see how God, in His incredible wisdom, pairs people together in the various children's / youth ministries...and marriages. Some of us lean more toward the "grace side" of things, while others of us lean more on the "truth side." It's not necessarily bad - or good - it's just the way God has made us. The tension arises, though, when I view someone from the "other side" as "the enemy." OK, maybe enemy is too strong of a word, but we view them as not having a correct handle on how to best teach our kids. Let me challenge you with a course of action the next time that tension begins to rise: Thank the Lord for that other leader who seems to be leaning on the other side of the Grace and Truth issue. Why? ...because they are probably balancing you out. They are helping to ensure that the child in question is receiving BOTH Grace AND Truth.

Because of the example that Jesus set, we owe it to our kids to be teachers and leaders and parents and role models who are demonstrating both.

Grace...and Truth.

Because of, and for Him,  
*Pastor Daniel*

## In God's Word in February



- 5- An Unlikely Servant ...Joshua 2
- 12- You Go First ...Joshua 3
- 19- Remembering 1st Step ...Joshua 4-5
- 26- The Key to Victory ...Joshua 6

"He who has God and everything else has no more than he who has God only." - C. S. Lewis

"Passivity leads to sin management."

"If you don't die tonight,  
how will you spend your time tomorrow?"

"Humility is God's habitat."

"Grace is opposed to earning but not opposed to effort."

"Am I so busy I've left God out of 'my schedule'?"

As we enter the New Year of 2012, our mission in Darmstadt has entered a new phase. With most everyone back to their normal routines after the travel and visits over the Holidays, we are kicking off our "Life Groups." These are home-based Bible studies that are intended as venues for both believers and "not yet believers."

Two Life Groups began the week of January 15. One is located on the north side of Darmstadt, one to the south. The groups provide a chance for current participants to grow in their knowledge, enjoy fellowship and invite their friends, neighbors and co-workers. As the groups grow, they will "multiply." Our goal is to have 4 Life Groups of approximately 10 adults each meeting by late Spring.

In addition to the Life Groups, we will begin holding "Launch Team" meetings. These meetings will be for those who want to be part of the effort to see the new church planted. Each member of the Team is committed to ministry, prayer, evangelism, worship and financial support of the work. The Launch Team will meet every other week.

During the first week of each month, the Life Groups will meet together for a joint time of study, worship and fellowship. These larger times together will increase in frequency over the coming months, and eventually become our weekly worship services...but that is still some time off. Of course, all of these plans are in the Lord's hands - and He can, and we are sure He will, lead and correct us as we proceed!

*Want to read the entire letter and see pictures?*

<http://darmstadtdigest.blogspot.com>

or request a hard copy from the church office



The Bible was written by **40** men over a period of about **1600** years dating from **1500** before Christ to about **100** years after Christ. These men wrote the Scriptures as they were given inspiration by God. (II Peter 1:20-21...II Timothy 3:16)



## on the radar in 2012

- February 4 - **Men's** One-Day Conference through Elmbrook "Unleashed!" ...**Tony Evans** speaking
- March 10 - **Missions Workshop** at Gateway
- March 18 - **Matt Hoffland** leading worship
- April 6 at 6pm - Messianic Passover **Seder**
- April 8 - **Resurrection Day!**
- April 13-15 - **Women's** Retreat - Camp Forest Springs ...**Jill Briscoe** speaking
- April 14 - **Women's** Conference - Chilton
- September 22-23 - **Marriage Conference** at Gateway
- October 21-28 - **Missions Fest**



## birthdays ... anniversaries

- 2 - Chris & Valerie Leonard ♥
- 6 - Sarah Schweitzer
- 10 - Andrea Wyer
- 15 - Ellen Roddy
- 23 - Dana Erickson

\* Did we miss someone? Let us know!



...from Bob and Carol, in Germany

consider!

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