Truth

– What is an environment/setting where you felt incredibly out of place?

Many of us welcome receiving grace more than we do receiving truth. Yet, Jesus' example was filled with both. Many times, we think of grace as the heart and truth as the hammer. Yet, is that how God intended us to view it?

Read John 1:14 and Matthew 7:24-27

- What does it mean that Jesus was <u>full</u> of grace AND truth?
- Do you see God's truth as a hammer, as his heart, or both? Why?

Sometimes God's commands can seem like boundaries that restrict our fun and freedom, yet they're intended to bring so much more to our lives.

Read Psalm 119:103-106

- From your life experience what are examples of God's commands, which may seem restricting, that lead to freedom?
- If you are a parent, you've probably recognized the importance of guardrails. What is an example of a guardrail you erected to protect your children from potentially harmful situations?

Jesus' commands stood apart from the priorities and desires of this world. Likewise, those who choose to follow His commands will also stand out in this world.

Read 1 Peter 2:11-12

- As a Christ-follower have you ever felt like an alien living in a foreign land? How?
- Why is it so hard to trade the comfort of "fitting in" for the calling of "standing out?"
 Why is it even harder to lead our kids in that?

Read Colossians 3:12-13 & Ephesians 4:15

What is an area that you have an opportunity to live out compassion without compromise? What does it look like in that area to be full of grace and truth?