Notes for these notes:

1. This presentation is focused on believers, so for believers we first ask what their relationship with God is like. For us to effectively grow as believers, we must first understand that God shows us perfect grace while being perfectly truthful about all of our shameful shortcomings and brokenness. After we are fully honest with God and fully trusting in His grace to grow us to be more like Jesus, then we can think about how we can apply grace and truth to our other relationships.
2. When we modify this grid to talk to non-believers, we start with their difficult human relationships to give them understanding of how to apply the grid to their relationships, and then we introduce the idea that God offers us the kind of relationship that we all crave.
3. This grid is ©Jesus, so please modify it in any way that helps you to promote Jesus.

Grace and Truth

1

Please note that this is a workshop, so there will be some interaction expected…

The theme of this conference is “Thriving in Christ in a Challenging World”.

I want to introduce to you to a concept that both aids you to thrive in Christ, and to deal with the increasing challenges in the world. I want to impress upon you the importance of growing in Grace and Truth.

2

**John 1:14 – And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

**John 1:17 – For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realised through Jesus Christ.**

3

Jesus was full of grace and truth, therefore as we follow Jesus, we should also be working towards being full of Grace and Truth to become more like Jesus – does anyone disagree?

What is grace? [Unmerited favour].

What is truth? [What God says, but recognise that we have to start with human truth because we don’t know all that God knows].

Exercise:

4

1. While Jesus is perfectly and infinitely full of grace and truth, and true grace cannot be separated from true truth, and vice versa, we, in our human brokenness, manage to separate the two so that we can be gracious without truth and truthful without grace. Although we humans are unable to achieve Jesus’ perfection, we should be aiming for it so that we become primarily characterised by grace and truth in the way we relate to others.
2. Explain axes.
3. Explain 3 segments:
	1. Performance (legalism, rules based)
	2. Total Excess (rebellion, cheap grace)
	3. Isolation
4. Experience:
	1. You can go into any of the three quadrants and change when you want, but you have to follow the rules in each when you are there.
	2. Rules:
		1. Performance – jump up and down like a kangaroo while smiling (have a coach encouraging performance).
		2. Isolation – sit with your eyes closed and fingers in ears.
		3. Total Excess – do whatever you like, sing, harass others in other quadrants.
5. How did you feel when you had to perform to be accepted?
6. How did you feel when you did whatever you wanted to?
7. How did you feel when you were isolated from others?
8. For those who changed, why did you?

5

1. Summarise effects.

6

1. Now I want you to think of your relationship with God – stand where in these three boxes best describes your relationship with Him?

7

1. Explain the Growth sector [we can only truly grow in an environment/relationship of grace and truth – no grace, too much fear, no truth, too little direction].
2. This is the relationship that God offers us, so we can grow and thrive in Christ.

8-14

1. **Prodigal Son**
2. What do you think we can do to move from:
	1. Performance to Growth? [Confess that you are broken, weak and cannot perform to the required standard, you need grace]

15

* 1. Total Excess to Growth? [Give up control and submit to God’s standard of truth]

16

* 1. Isolation to Growth? [Reconnect with people]

17

1. Effective Growth only occurs in an environment of Grace and Truth, so this is where all our relationships should be.

18

1. Now think of the most difficult relationship you have in the workplace, and stand in the place that best describes it.
2. If we really want to deal with the world and it’s challenges, rather than give into fear, passivity, frustration or even depression, we need to do for them what God has done for us, and offer grace and truth.

19

1. We tend to come from either a primarily truth or primarily grace perspective. Know which side you come from as it helps you know what you need to strengthen.
2. Think about how you respond to relationship challenges around you – is your first desire to excuse problems so you can avoid any confrontation, or do you want to try to control situations by forcing compliance?

20

1. What if the other person/people don’t/won’t move? [Show grace – offer an environment of Grace and Truth – we can only truly change ourselves – (**Romans 12:18 – If possible, *so far as it depends on you*, be at peace with all men**)]
2. Bottom line, the *what* must be truthful and the *how* must be gracious.
3. Develop the piece you are missing! [Goal is to create grace and truth zones around us where others feel safe and can grow]

Optional Consolidation:

Love One Another – proof that we are filling up with grace and truth

21

**John 13: 35 –By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”**

How do we love one another?

- Take away fear?

**1 John 4:18** – There is no fear in love; perfect love casts out fear…

* Make each other feel safe even if we don’t agree?

- Show grace, reassure love?

- Habitually forgive? [Give up the right to punish, expression of grace]

**Matthew 18-21-22** – **21**Then Peter came and said to Him, “Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?” **22**Jesus \*said to him, “I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.

- Be truthful about ourselves, be honest to others?

**Matthew 7:3-5 – 3**Why do you look at the speck that is in your brother’s eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? **4**Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ and behold, the log is in your own eye? **5**You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother’s eye.

*[Does not say we can’t correct our brother, just that we need to check ourselves first and correct our brother with the humility that comes with recognising our own flaws]*

# - Tell the truth?

# Proverbs 27:5-10

**5**Better is open rebuke
Than love that is concealed.
**6**Faithful are the wounds of a friend,
But deceitful are the kisses of an enemy.

*[Note on gift of exhortation – can feel like judgement, delayed sense of love, test is in the truth of it – maybe consider that the intent is to help not hurt]*