

# IV

## *Gracious* S p a c e

One Truth  
7.7 Billion Perspectives

## Introduction

Welcome to the “*Gracious Space*” Study Series produced for FBC in conjunction with our 2019 Fall Sermon Series.

This 8 week study can be done in a small group, as couples, or as an individual reflection, and is best done in order along with the Sunday sermons... but doesn’t have to be.

You will notice through this guide where we suggest an optional “RESOURCE.” To find these additional resources, you will need to use your computer, tablet, or smart phone, go to the church website [www.fbcpg.ca](http://www.fbcpg.ca) and click on the “Gracious Space” logo.

If you are leading a group it is important that you pre-read the guide in order to properly manage time. It is best not to rush through any one question, allowing for multiple people to give their perspectives.

This study is anywhere from 30mins to 2 hours.

We pray you will enjoy the journey into *Gracious Space*...

Wayne & David

Taking some time to “be still” and recognize God is with you,  
around you, before you, and after you...  
positions your heart and mind to receive the  
wisdom and discernment of the Spirit.

Now is the time to try and foster a teachable spirit,  
to be open to new learning,  
and what the Spirit has to say to you right now, in this moment.  
Try some intentional breathing or the Psalm meditation online.  
Sense your body relaxing and becoming present and ready  
to hear God speak.

**RESOURCE: Psalm 46 Meditation (7mins)**

Continue now, giving space for yourself and others  
to journey into the Father’s Words,  
the Spirit’s Presence,  
and the love, grace, and passion of the Son.

*Gracious Space: One Truth, 7.7 Billion Perspectives*

Is there such thing as ultimate truth?

Can any one person claim to know ultimate truth?

Have you ever been 100% positive about something,  
Only to find out later you were wrong?

Take a few minutes to reflect and discuss what the idea of  
“perspective” has to do with truth.

If you are in a group,  
see if you can find three movies that every person agrees were  
*great* movies.

At FBC we believe that we are called to participate with God  
in His restoration of our broken world.  
In carrying out this mission, our own individual perspectives on  
Scripture may affect what this mission looks like.

What are some beliefs based on the Bible  
that the church may have held in the past,  
but that most Christians don't agree with anymore?

Can you think of any beliefs about the Bible  
that has caused church division?

Do you think it would be realistic for all Christians everywhere to  
agree on everything the bible teaches?

Scripture:

Read Matthew 5:17-48

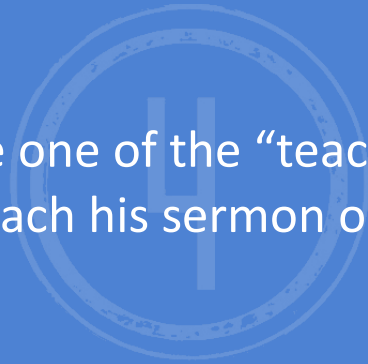
(In a group, you may wish to condense the scripture by reading only the first two verses in each section, it'll still be effective)

Jesus is preaching his famous Sermon on the Mount.

What might be controversial about his teaching here,  
for the Jews at that time?

What is the “Law or the Prophets”  
that Jesus is referring to in verse 17?

If Jesus says he has not come to change even one stroke,  
of one letter, of the “Law” that Israel lives by,  
what exactly is he doing in his sermon?



Imagine you were one of the “teachers of the Law,” listening to Jesus preach his sermon on the mountainside.

What would you be thinking and feeling about this young rabbi named Jesus from the tiny village of Nazareth?

What would be scary about what Jesus was teaching?

Do you have any more thoughts on how his teaching could have been controversial?

Read verse 43 again.

Who would have said,  
‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy’?

How might this be an *extra* good example of missing the point of the Law?

In the Sermon on the Mount,  
Jesus is teaching a new way to follow the Law, *the* way.  
But it was different, and challenged the *traditional* way.  
Often disagreements happen in churches today because of a new  
perspective on a traditional belief or way of doing things.

A person's perspective can change what they see as "true".  
Back in 2015, a mom texted a picture to her soon-to-be-wed  
daughter of a dress she wanted to wear to the wedding.  
This picture (on the next page) became an internet sensation.

Why?

What colour is the dress?

Are you sure?

What is *clear* and *simple* and *true* for some about this dress  
may not be the same for others.



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Scripture:

Read these verses in multiple translations

Hebrew 13:7-8

What can we learn from the fact that Jesus, his way, and his truth **does not change**?

What *does* change?

**RESOURCE: How to Read the Bible (8mins)**

The final questions on the next page may not have clear answers. It is REALLY important to take time to ponder and/or discuss them humbly and prayerfully.

It may be a good idea to journal your answers or think about them over the course of a few days.

How has my own upbringing influenced the way I read the Bible?



How does the culture I live in affect my reading of the Bible,  
what may be “lost in translation”?

What about the Bible have I always just believed,  
not because I read it first, but because I was taught it first?

Are there any beliefs about Christianity  
that have changed for me over the years?

Do I read the Bible to support my beliefs,  
or discover what to believe?

What personally do I have at stake when I read the Bible?

What’s scary about changing things that I believe  
about the Bible?

## Gracious Space



Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Hebrew 4:16



This booklet was produced and written by pastors Wayne and David in conjunction with the 2019 Fall Sermon Series: *Gracious Space*, at First Baptist Church Prince George, BC.