



TEACH IT COLLEGE AGE SESSION 3

1. Materials

For this session each student will need—

- the 2 Timothy Scripture sheets
- the student journal page for Session 3
- his or her own Bible, pen, and notebook

You'll also need—

- a whiteboard and markers
- colored pencils (at least one color per student)
- weird food combination ideas for the Open exercise
- optional: a Reese's Peanut Butter Cup for each student
- optional: Internet connection and video clip of a classic Reese's Peanut Butter Cup commercial ("You got peanut butter on my chocolate!")—search a video sharing Web site, such as YouTube, with key words *Reese's commercial classic*

2. Session Intro

GOALS OF SESSION 3

As students experience this session, they will—

- discover two traits of Jesus we're not used to seeing together.
- explore how grace and judgment are both embodied in Jesus Christ.
- be drawn toward a more intimate relationship with Jesus by gaining a more accurate picture of these attributes.

PRAYER

Open your session by praying that students will let the knowledge they'll gain draw them into a closer relationship with Jesus.

OPEN

Weird Eats

Before the session do a Web search for a phrase such as *weird food combinations*. Have a few ideas handy should you need to prime the pump for one of the following questions:

What are some weird food combinations that people (maybe even you) actually like to eat?

Examples may include mayonnaise sandwiches, Heinz 57 and French fries, carrot sticks and ice cream, peanut butter and pickles.

What's your favorite thing to eat with peanut butter?

Examples may include bread, banana, chocolate, pickles, tuna, jelly, or honey.

What do weird food combos have to do with 2 Timothy? Share with the group that Jesus himself was full of weird combinations—things that don't seem to go together. For example he was all human *and* all God. Naturally, this

confused people in Jesus' day, just as it does today. Letters including 2 Timothy were written to help clear up the confusion by giving us the full scoop on Jesus.

3. Digging In

Getting the Scoop

Have the group pull out their Scripture sheets, and explain that they'll be looking specifically at Jesus in these passages. Before they begin share that Paul often used the word *Lord*. The question is: Was Paul referring to God or to Jesus? To settle this question, have someone read 2 Timothy 1:2 aloud, and decide as a group.

Tell your students—

- 1. Read 2 Timothy 1:8-2:13 and 4:1-8 from your Scripture sheets.**
- 2. With colored pencil draw a cross over every mention of Jesus.**
- 3. Remember to include pronouns, such as *he* and *him*.**

When most have finished ask them to look back at what they marked. Have them choose two facts about Jesus that stand out as most meaningful. As they share these, record the info on the whiteboard. Your board should begin to look something like this:

Jesus

- He gave us God's grace before the beginning of time (1:9).
- He destroyed death (1:10).
- He brought life and immortality to light (1:10).
- He shows mercy to those who help others (1:16).
- He gives us grace that can keep us strong (2:1).
- He has soldiers (2:3).
- He will give us insight into all that Paul was saying (2:7).
- He will remain faithful even when we are faithless (2:13).
- He will judge the living and the dead (4:1).
- He is the righteous Judge (4:8).
- He gives out crowns of righteousness (4:8).

4. Taking It Inward

Processing the Scoop

Guide a discussion of the facts on the whiteboard using these questions:

Which of these facts about Jesus seem the most practical—things you can use today?

- He shows mercy to those who help others (1:16).
- He gives us grace that can keep us strong (2:1).
- He will give us insight into all that Paul was saying (2:7).
- He will remain faithful even when we are faithless (2:13).

Which ones make you go Wow!?

Do you see any facts that seem to be opposites?

Discuss and elicit that grace and judgment are two qualities that seem to be at odds with one another.

After drawing out the seemingly opposite qualities of grace and judgment, discuss these situations:

Describe a time when you felt that you were a definite recipient of grace—either from God or from others. Share as much or as little detail as you’re comfortable.

Describe a time when you felt that you were a definite recipient of judgment—either from God or from others.

After some have shared ask—

In either situation did you also experience a little bit of the opposite quality? In other words, when you received grace, did you also receive judgment in some form? And when you received judgment, did you also receive grace in some measure?

5. Cross-Checking



Supersize Combo

Explain one of the most intriguing things about Jesus is the fact he embodies certain qualities that seem to contradict one another—like being 100 percent God *and* 100 percent human. It’s the same way with grace and judgment. Jesus embodies both.

We may never be able to wrap our minds around this, but any time we seek to understand Jesus as he really is, we get closer to him because we come to see and love the *real* Jesus—not an outdated image of him.

Explain that the next set of passages can teach us more about grace, judgment, and the role Jesus plays in giving both and that they’ll be experiencing these verses in solitude. Tell your students—

- 1. Find spaces where you can be alone with God, such as a corner of the room, a hallway, or an empty room nearby.**
- 2. Take your Bibles, pens, and journal pages.**
- 3. Read from your Bibles the verses listed under Cross-Checking on your journal pages and write in the spaces everything you discover about grace and judgment.**

Possible observations are noted below for the leader’s reference.

GRACE

2 Corinthians 8:9

The grace of Jesus is defined as Jesus becoming poor even though he was rich so that we might become rich.

2 Corinthians 12:7-10

Jesus’ grace is all we need; our weaknesses provide a chance for us to experience this.

Hebrews 4:14-16

Jesus was tempted in every way we are. He didn’t sin, but he can sympathize with our temptations. So boldly ask for grace.

JUDGMENT

John 5:22-23

God entrusts all judgment to the Son.

Acts 10:42-43

God appointed Jesus to judge the living and the dead.

Romans 2:16

God will judge men's secrets through Christ.

BOTH

John 1:14-17

-Here we see a glimpse of the miracle combination—Jesus is full of grace and truth.

-The Law (which brought judgment) came through Moses; Jesus brought grace with truth.

6. Taking It Inward

Good News Combo

After a few minutes get the group back together, and ask—

What filter does God's judgment come through?

God's judgment comes through Jesus.

Based on the verses you just read, what kind of judge do you think Jesus is? An impersonal judge? An uncaring judge? Or a sympathetic judge?

He has been tempted in every way we've been tempted, so he is able to sympathize and understand.

Share that this is all great info about Jesus, but it leads us to the big question: *So what?* Explain the following points in your own words:

-This info about Jesus gets at the heart of God's great plan to restore his relationship with mankind.

-Because of the choice Adam and Eve made, mankind was separated from God.

-God made a way for us to bridge that separation, even though he didn't have to. (That's grace.)

-God also holds us accountable as to whether or not we accept his way. (That's judgment.) Jesus is the one who one day will judge the hearts of all mankind, separating those who did not accept God's plan of salvation from those who did.

-Those who know and love Jesus can see him as the best possible kind of judge—full of grace and mercy, having endured all the temptations we endure every day.

Ask—

How does this knowledge help you understand Jesus as the one who is both your grace-giver and your judge?

Analogies are sometimes the best teaching tools. You might explain Jesus' dual role as a judge who is full of grace by giving this example: It's like showing up to take a really tough test, and the teacher has already taken it for you.

7. Digging Deeper

A Trustworthy Saying

In 2 Timothy 2:11-13, we're given a "trustworthy saying" that can teach us more about the combination of grace and judgment found in Jesus.

Have the students reread 2 Timothy 2:11-13 and write the trustworthy saying in the chart on the journal pages. Point out that the saying is broken down into four conditions (each beginning with *if*) and four consequences or promises.

Condition	Consequence/Promise
<i>If we die with Jesus:</i>	<i>We will live with him.</i>
<i>If we endure with Jesus:</i>	<i>We will also reign with him.</i>

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If we disown Jesus:

He will also disown us.

If we are faithless:

He will remain faithful, for he cannot disown himself.

After a few minutes process the trustworthy saying as a group:

What does dying with Christ involve?

- It involves giving up our selfish wants.
- It means putting Jesus' ways and desires ahead of our own.

What do you think it means to endure with Christ? Are there ways you're enduring with him right now?

- Is there hardship in your family life?
- Is there pressure from friends to act against your values and beliefs?
- Do you feel like you're all alone in your faith?

What do you think about the rewards for dying and enduring with Christ? Even though these things are hard, are they worth it?

The rewards of living and reigning with Jesus don't seem terribly tangible, but they are a huge payoff for enduring with Jesus now.

Which one of these points relates to grace and which relates to judgment?

- Grace: If we are faithless, he will remain faithful.
- Judgment: If we disown him, he will disown us.

What are some ways in which we could disown Christ?

- We could tell him we don't want anything to do with him or his input into our lives.
- When he tries to convict or correct us, we could tell him to get lost.
- We could decide we want to live life on our own, apart from him.

What are some ways in which we could be faithless to Christ?

- We could give in to temptation.
- We could believe a lie from the Enemy instead of Jesus' truth.
- We could have doubts or questions about God that make us less faithful (full of faith) for a time.
- We could temporarily forget all he's done for us.

What does it mean to you that Christ will stay faithful to you even though you sometimes let him down?

What does it mean to you that Jesus will disown you if you disown him?

In the world of architectural engineering, certain things, such as archways, bridge supports, and domes, are made stronger by tension. How does the tension between grace and judgment—two seemingly opposite qualities of Jesus—make each of those qualities stronger?

This is a question intended to spark discussion, so let responses be free-flowing. You might toss out a couple other questions: Is the likelihood of judgment what gives grace its meaning? In other words, if there were no judgment, there would be no need for grace? Or you could look at it another way: Is the possibility of grace what gives judgment its power? Without the possibility of grace, would judgment have any sting since it's all anyone would know or expect?

Take a moment to write psalms or simple thank you notes to Jesus that expresses your gratitude for his grace and faithfulness despite your occasional faithlessness. There's space for this on your journal pages.



8. Wrapping It Up

Two Great Tastes That Taste Great Together

Before you close ask any volunteers to share the psalm they wrote about God's grace and faithfulness.

Give a Reese's Peanut Butter Cup to each student as a reminder of the great combo of grace and judgment found in Jesus (two great tastes that taste great together). Just for fun, you may want to show one of the old "two great tastes" Reese's commercials.

As you prepare to close in prayer, ask this question:

How have you been drawn closer to Jesus today?

After a few students have shared, close by praying that the truth in this session will continue to draw students closer to Jesus.