



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 from the Bible, 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. Grace has the appearance of letting one off the hook; judgment has the appearance of putting one on the hook.

5. Cross-Checking



Supersize Combo

Explain that one of the most intriguing things about Jesus is the fact he embodies certain qualities that seem to contradict one another—such as 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.

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

- 1. Find spaces to 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 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>
<i>If we disown Jesus:</i>	<i>He will also disown us.</i>
<i>If we are faithless:</i>	<i>He will remain faithful, for he cannot disown himself.</i>

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

What does dying with Christ involve?

- We must give up our selfish wants.
- We must put 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?

- Hardship in your family life?
- Pressure from friends to act against your values and beliefs?
- Feeling 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?

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?

Take a moment to write a psalm or a simple thank you note 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 wrap it up, 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.