



Part 1: Real vs. Ideal

Ideal can seem out of reach, and it sometimes feels easier to put it out of sight. Part of being a parent is to point our children toward the ideal, while at the same time navigating what is real.

Discussion Questions

1. As a parent or person of influence, what's something you want to emulate or not emulate from your family of origin?
2. In what areas could you do a better job of striving for the ideal, even when knowing what's "real" may prevent it? In other words, have you given up on reaching the ideal in any area?
3. **Read John 1:9–14.** What stands out to you, particularly in verse 14?
4. Would you say you need to extend more grace or truth toward others (especially kids if you have them)? In what areas are you more geared toward grace, and in what areas are you more geared toward truth?

Moving Forward

Truth without grace creates pretenders and hypocrites. But grace without truth creates a permissive version of faith that hurts everybody in the end. Jesus was the full embodiment of truth and grace. He never dumbed down the truth, but he never turned down the grace.