

Family Discipleship

Conversation Guide

Tolerance

tol·er·ant

Adjective

Showing willingness to allow the existence of opinions or behavior that one does not necessarily agree with.

The word “tolerant” gets thrown around a lot these days. People are often labelled as intolerant if they disagree with someone else’s beliefs or actions. But is it really intolerant to disagree?

Watch the following video about truth and tolerance: 

Discuss: What did the video say about truth? Is it possible for two people to have contradictory beliefs and for both of their beliefs to be true?

Romans 12:2 says, “Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.”

Tolerance is increasingly becoming confused with **conformism** (accepting the usual practices or standards of a group). We can love people without accepting their beliefs or behaviors as right and good. In fact, we are commanded to love, and building relationships with people is the best way to share our hope in Jesus.

Discuss: What does it mean that truth is exclusive?
How would you respond in love to someone who said Christianity is intolerant?
What are some ways you can “be transformed by the renewing of your mind”?

Prayer: Heavenly Father, you loved the world so much that you sent your Son to save us. Help us remain strong in your truth. Help us to love all people, even when we disagree with them. Fill us with your Spirit to share the good news of our Savior with those who don’t know you. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Links, videos, and quotes contained within this guide do not necessarily represent the teachings of Grace Ev. Lutheran Church and the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS). The video implies people can decide to believe in Jesus, but people can only believe in Jesus through faith created by the Holy Spirit.