



A Good Word Week 5 – TRUTH

Spiritual Formation & Discussion Guide

We hope you'll use this guide to take the teaching from Sunday's service and reflect on it with a few friends or a group. If you have questions or want to talk more about how to take your next spiritual step, contact us at info@wschurch.org.

Scripture:

"And the judgment is based on this fact: God's light came into the world, but people loved the darkness more than the light, for their actions were evil. ²⁰ All who do evil hate the light and refuse to go near it for fear their sins will be exposed. ²¹ But those who do what is right come to the light so others can see that they are doing what God wants."

John 3:19-21

Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me."

John 14:6

Reflection Questions:

- What is one thing you know to be true?
- What stood out to you from Sunday's service? How did you sense God encouraging and challenging you through the songs, the message, and being with others as part of the church? (The message's main points and scripture are listed below if it helps you reflect.)
- Have you ever wrestled with knowing what is true and what is not? What did that look like for you?
- Read Jesus' words in John 3:19-21 (or if you'd like, read more of John 3 to get more of the story and context). What do you notice about Jesus' message, especially about truth?
- Chip shared a quote: "The highest and most beautiful things in life are not to be heard about, nor read about, nor seen but, if one will, are to be lived." – Soren Kierkegaard
He connected that quote to how important it is for us to live out the truth and not merely understand it. What is your reaction to that?
- Read Jesus' words in John 14:6. (Again, if you can, read some of the verses leading up to that verse, as well.) Truth is more than a list of true statements; truth is a person. What difference does it make to realize that Jesus himself is the truth?
- Chip offered two practical principles in his message:
 - **If you're wanting to know the truth, consider learning less and obeying Jesus more...**

- **If you're wanting to help others know the truth, consider speaking less and serving more...**
Which of these do you need to embrace today? Why? (Is there a Christian friend you can talk to about that?)
- Is there anything else from this teaching that you want to explore more?
- Take time to pray as you close your time of reflection or discussion..

Want some resources and ideas for how to grow spiritually?

We are spotlighting our resource, "**How to Pray and Read the Bible,**" which you can get at our Next Steps Area or access online at https://www.wschurch.org/content/pdf/How2PrayBible_Digital.pdf.

Visit www.wschurch.org/resources to see additional tools and resources.

Message Main Points and Scripture:

- John 18:37-38 - "You say that I am a king. In fact, that's the reason I was born. I was born and came into the world to testify to the truth. Everyone who is on the side of truth listens to my voice." "What is truth?" Pilate replied.
- John 3:19-21 - Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and won't come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.
- **Those who live by the truth see guilt as an invitation to step into the light.**
- **Name the shame.**
- "whoever lives by the truth comes into the light..."
- **"Live your truth."**
- **Truth is meant to be lived.**
- ***"The highest and most beautiful things in life are not to be heard about, nor read about, nor seen but, if one will, are to be lived."*** – Soren Kierkegaard
- **"Living *the* truth."**
- John 8:43-45 - "Why don't you understand what I'm saying? It can only be because you can't hear my word. You are from your father – the devil! And you're eager to get on with what he wants. He was a murderer from the beginning, and he's never remained in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he tells lies, he speaks what comes naturally to him, because he is a liar – in fact, he's the father of lies!"
- **A claim's truthfulness is slowly getting replaced with its usefulness.**
- John 14:6 - "I am the way, the truth, and the life."
- **the Truth is a Person**
- **Knowing the truth is far more like *knowing a person* than knowing *facts about* a person.**
- **If you're wanting to know the truth, consider learning less and obeying Jesus more...**
- John 8:31-32 - "If you remain in my word," he said, "you will truly be my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."
- **To obey Him *is* to know Him.**
- **If you're wanting to help others know the truth, consider speaking less and serving more...**
- John 19:19 - "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews."