

“The Battle for Truth”

Clash #1- Kingdoms in Conflict

INTRODUCTION

The focal point for this study is the concept of Truth itself, or as Pilate asked Jesus “What is truth?” You may have heard people question whether there can be an absolute standard for truth. Our understanding of truth is at the heart of our faith. This study considers how God’s eternal truth is fundamental to the identity and the mission of Jesus Christ, and to the way we choose to live out our faith.

Ice Breaker (Optional):

How easy is it to recognize truth? Have each member of the group tell three things about themselves: two true and one false. See if you can spot which is false.

STUDY QUESTIONS (45 MIN)

God’s Truth is Eternal

Q1. Read John 17:17, Psalm 119:89, Matthew 24:35

In John 17:17, what does Jesus equate to the truth? In contrast to the temporary nature of “human-centered” relative truth, how certain is the truth revealed in God’s word (Psalm 119:89, Matthew 24:35)?

Q2. Read Romans 1:18, 21-22, 25, 2 Timothy 4:3-4

Lies, the antithesis of Truth, take human hearts and minds captive by the power of deception. According to Romans 1:18, 21-22 and 25 what are some of the things that oppose God’s truth? What is one thing you have seen our culture deny as true today which was accepted as true in the past? How might 2 Timothy 4:3-4 explain why this happens?

God’s Truth is Revealed in Jesus

Q3. Read John 18:37-38, John 14:6, 2 Thessalonians 2:13

Jesus came into the world “full of grace and truth” and “to testify to the truth.” How has knowing the truth of God’s Word affected your understanding of and relationship with Jesus? Why did Jesus indicate that studying the Scriptures, in itself, was not sufficient to gain eternal life (2 Thessalonians 2:13)? How can you keep your life balanced between knowing God’s Word, and having a relationship

with the Word who became flesh? Which do you feel you need to focus on more in your own life?

God’s Truth is Demonstrated in Our Lives

Q4. Read John 8:31-32

In John 8:32 Jesus told the Jews that by abiding in His word, they would know the truth and be set free. What bondage do you think they needed to be freed from? What bondage did Jesus break for you?

Q5. Read 2 Timothy 2:24, 26; 1 Peter 1:23-25

Why does Paul advise believers to be “gentle” rather than “quarrelsome” in their dealings with outsiders? How does our understanding of the supernatural dimension involved in the conflict over truth (2 Timothy 2:26) affect the way we relate to non-believers? What is the truth of the good news we have to share according to 1 Peter 1:23-25?

WRAP-UP

Unlike “relative truth” that states knowledge, truth, and morality exist in relation to a cultural context, and are not absolute; God’s Word is eternally true. It doesn’t change, no matter who disagrees with it. And God’s truth is revealed in the identity and the life of Jesus. But it is not only knowing about Jesus through which we possess eternal life, it is by having a relationship with and knowing Him as savior that we are set free from our bondage to sin and death. And the Good News, which we can share with the world, is that we can have eternal life based on the unshakeable truth of the Word of God.

Memory Verse

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” John 14:6 ESV

PRAYER (20 MIN)

Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life: _____

Pray for your group members’ needs: _____

Challenge:

If there is someone you know who needs to hear the truth and be set free, share their name with your group, and pray together for an opportunity to share the truth with them.

Q1

John 17:17 NIV - 17 Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.

Psalms 119:89 NIV - 89 Lament Your word, LORD, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens.

Matthew 24:35 NIV - 35 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

Q2

Romans 1:18, 21-22, 25 NIV - 18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth....21 For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools... 25 because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

2 Timothy 4:3-4 ESV - 3 For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, 4 and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.

Q3

John 1:14 ESV - 14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 5:39-40 ESV - 39 You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, 40 yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life.

Q4.

John 18:37-38 ESV - 37 Then Pilate said to him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world--to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice." 38 Pilate said to him, "What is truth?" After he had said this, he went back outside to the Jews and told them, "I find no guilt in him.

John 14:6 ESV - 6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

2 Thessalonians 2:13 ESV - 13 But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth.

Q4

John 8:31-32 ESV - 31 So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

Q5.

2 Timothy 2:24-26 ESV - 24 And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, 25 correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, 26 and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.

1 Peter 1:23-25 ESV - 23 since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; 24 for "All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, 25 but the word of the Lord remains forever." And this word is the good news that was preached to you.

Prayers Con't: _____
