

Truth or Dare? – Lesson 1

What is Truth?

Verses to Remember

"Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."
John 14:6 (NIV)

What is Truth Survey

1. Do you believe in "absolute truth" (that something can be true at all times in all situations for all people)?
2. Do you believe that some things are right sometimes and wrong at other times? Example (if needed) it's wrong to cuss but if you're really mad it's okay.
3. Do you believe that, in some cases, abortion is okay?
4. Do you believe that you should always tell the truth, no matter what?
5. Do you believe it is okay, in some situations, to live with someone before you're married?
6. Do you believe it is okay, in some situations, to talk behind people's backs?
7. Do you believe it is okay to stretch the truth or lie if it means not hurting someone's feelings?
8. Do you believe it is okay, to cheat on your homework? Example (if needed) you were out late the night before feeding the homeless and didn't get your work done.
9. Do you believe that if you're a pretty good person and don't do anything too bad that you will go to heaven when you die?
10. Do you think it is okay to get revenge on someone?
11. Do you think that, in some situations, smoking is okay?
12. Do you think that, in some situations, stealing is okay? Example (if needed) your family is starving and you steal food to feed them.
13. Do you think that other religions other than Christianity are true and useful?
14. Do you think that it is okay to watch MTV?
15. Do you think that it is okay to listen to secular music?
16. Do you think it is okay to have a lot of stuff and not share with people who don't have any?

John 18:33-38

1. What do you think it means to be "of the truth?"

2. If you examined our society, would you say that our country is "of the truth" or not?

3. What is truth?

4. Is truth something that is different for different people or is it the same for everyone?

5. How do you decide what is true in your life?

Scripture Study

The Gospel is the truth - Ephesians 1:13, Colossians 1:5
God wants us to know the truth - 1 Timothy 2:15
The church is meant to protect the truth - 1 Timothy 3:15
Some oppose the truth - 2 Timothy 3:2-8
The truth should change how we live - 1 John 3:18

1. After reading these passages, how would you say the Bible thinks of truth?

2. Do you think opposition to the truth is being opposed in our world today?

3. Why is it so hard to tell right from wrong, or truth from lies?

John 14:6

1. How does this challenge your view of the truth, that it's not some abstract reality but it's summed up in the person of Christ?

2. How can you let the truth that is Jesus change your life?

Homework:

- Memorize John 14:6
- Starting this week be aware of situations and philosophies that challenge your idea of what truth is. Jesus said that He is the way the truth and the light, and the only way to God. Does your idea of truth line up with God's?

Truth or Dare? – Lesson 2

The Truth Is

Verses to Remember

"In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as he saw fit." Judges 17:6 (NIV)

1. Do you know anyone who doesn't believe in truth?

2. Do you know anyone who says that "what's right for you may not be right for them"? What do you think of that?

Matthew 5:18, 26, 17:20, 21:21

1. What is it that Jesus says again and again?

2. Why do you think that Jesus said this so often?

3. Do you think Jesus can be trusted? Why/why not?

4. Why don't you think more people use Jesus as their standard?

5. If Jesus says over 30 times in Matthew that he is telling us the truth, what would keep you from using him as your standard of right and wrong?

Truth Is

Truth cannot be relative. Sure, there are gray areas sometimes. But there is a standard of truth, and his name is Jesus. He may not tell us everything we'll ever need to know (he doesn't instruct us how to balance our checkbook, for example), but everything we know and decide upon can be viewed through the lenses of what Jesus would approve of. This is what being a disciple is about. Decisions on how to speak, whether or not to and whom to date, what your career will be, etc., should be reserved for the truth-giver—Jesus—to influence.

1. What other sources of right and wrong could someone be influenced by?

2. Which ones are most common today?

3. How much do you think Jesus influences your life compared to these other influences?

4. How often do you simply do what is right "in your own eyes"?

Homework:

- Memorize Judges 17:6
- Make a weighted list of what influences your ideas about what is right & wrong.
- Write a paragraph on what truth is.

Truth or Dare – Lesson 3 Workbook

Ethics and Morality

Verses to remember

"For the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength." 1 Corinthians 1:25 (NIV)

Workbook Activity - Ethics Scenarios

Instructions:

Read the following ethics scenarios, and jot down what you believe is the right or wrong thing to do and why. Discuss your answers with those sitting around you.

Scenario # 1

You are hiding an innocent group of people in your home who are fleeing some gangsters. Gangster Leo knocks on your door, and when you open it, he asks if the group is in your house.

What should you do? Should you tell the truth or lie?

Scenario #2

You are passing through a country carrying a large amount of money. In this impoverished country, you know that if you are found to have valuables, you will be killed and your valuables stolen. However, if you disguise your money in a worn out backpack, you can get away with carrying it as you pass through.

Is it wrong to disguise the truth to save yourself? Should you just be honest and trust God to protect you?

Scenario #3

You and a partner are working on a project at school. Your partner approaches you two days before the project is due and shows you that he has completed it on his own. The guidelines were that the two of you work on the project equally. He tells you not to worry about it and to just go along because, "no one will ever know."

Are you wrong to skate by, letting your partner do the work, even if he is okay with it? Is it still the right thing to do?

Joshua 2: 1-6

1. In what ways is this story the same? Different?

2. Did Rahab lie? Was it okay to lie in this case?

3. When is it okay to lie?

4. In Hebrews 11:31, Rahab is remembered as a hero, not a liar or a prostitute. If she lied, why is she honored?

Genesis 2: 10-13

1. The cliché question of a wife asking a husband, "Do I look fat in this dress?" is actually a deep philosophical question. What makes an honest answer?

2. Is hiding the truth to save yourself ever okay?

3. What about to save others?

Genesis 39: 1-10

1. How is this different or similar to our scenario?

2. How can something be right or wrong, even when no one seems to get hurt either way?

3. It has been said that the true character of a person is shown when no one is looking. Do you agree?

Homework

- Memorize 1 Corinthians 1: 25
- Read and meditate on Romans 2: 14-16. Consider what these verses say about ethics and morality
- Pray that God will help you make wise choices and to realize that He is the standard of truth

Truth or Dare? – Lesson 4 Workbook

Ethics and Morality – Part 2

Verses to Remember

"I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you." Psalm 119:11 (NIV)

Instructions:

Read the following ethics scenarios, and jot down what you believe is the right or wrong thing to do and why.

Scenario #1

You and a friend are planning to go out and see a movie on a Friday night. As you're getting ready to leave, another friend calls and asks what you're doing that night. You know that the friend you're talking to on the phone sometimes can be jealous when you go out with other people. They are not friends with the person you're going with, so inviting them along isn't a real option. You can either tell them the truth or you can make something up that will get you off the phone and get you off the hook for the night. What should you do...tell the truth and hurt their feelings or tell a lie and have a fun night?

1. Is it wrong to lie to someone if it means not hurting their feelings?

2. Is "the truth hurts" a true statement? Why/why not?

(See Leviticus 19:11; Colossians 3:9; Proverbs 6:16-19)

Scenario #2

You turn on your television one night to find that you have started getting the premium cable package instead of basic cable. You're not sure why, because you don't pay for cable at all. What should you do, call the cable company and fess up or start popping popcorn and enjoy?

1. Is the above situation an example of stealing?

2. If someone left their wallet in your car or house accidentally and never asked if you had it, is it wrong to never give it back? What's the difference with the above story?

(See: Exodus 20:15; Luke 18:20; Ephesians 4:28)

Scenario #3

A nuclear bomb is dropped on Washington D.C. and the United States is taken over by a violent dictator who hates Christians. The armies of our new government march west and make their way to our city. Sitting at home one night, you and your family are drug from your home into the street. A general points a gun at your family and asks you if you are a Christian. If you say yes, you will be spared and your family will die. If you deny Christ you will be killed and your family will be spared. What should you do?"

1. Is denying Christ ever okay? What about to save people's lives?

2. Would your family want you to deny Christ in this case?

3. This may seem like an extreme example, but are there more common "deny Christ or pay the price" scenarios you face? Share examples.

(See: Matthew 16:24; Matthew 10:32-33; Luke 14:26)

1. How can you know God's will for your life? How can you know right from wrong?

2. What steps are you taking in your life that you can live in truth?

3. Do you dare live without knowing right from wrong? What would be the implications of living that way?

Homework

- Memorize Psalm 119:11.
- Read and meditate on Romans 2: 14-16. Consider what these verses say about ethics and morality.
- Pray that God will help you make wise choices and to realize that He is the standard of truth.

Truth or Dare – Lesson 5 Workbook

The Truth About Me

Verses to Remember

"Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own;" 1 Corinthians 6: 19 (NIV)

1. Why do you think people are so self-centered?

2. Why do you think it's particularly easy to be selfish as a teenager?

3. Do you think most people are arrogant or self-conscious? Why/why not?

4. Can you see how having a low self image can be just as prideful as being cocky? Why/why not?

POINT ONE: You have value because you were created by God.

Genesis 2: 7

1. What does it mean to you that you were created by God?

2. How might an alternate theory of our origins affect how we view ourselves? Ex., How would evolution affect how we view our purpose in life and our value?

3. What did God say after He saw all the things He had created (see Genesis 1:31). How does that affect how you view yourself?

POINT TWO: You are not your own.

1. What do you want to be when you grow up? Why?

2. What college would you like to attend? Why?

3. What do you see your life being like when you're 25 or 30?

4. How could this be a bad thing?

5. If you live selfishly, how might that come back to haunt you later?

6. If you try to be the boss of your life, what difficulties might you find.

Homework

- Memorize 1 Corinthians 6: 19.
- Reconsider who you are. Where does self-esteem come from, what gives value to your life.
- In view of this week's lesson, make a new list of what really matters in your life.
- Pray that God will help you see yourself the way He does, and to be content in knowing that you belong to Him.