

# THE CHURCH EXPERIENCE





## DEAR SMALL-GROUP HOSTS

PATHING BUT THE PAGE

The four-week, small-group study program will provide you with selected clips from the film, **"Nothing But The Truth,"** to be followed with Bible reading, questions and discussion.

As we embark upon this four-week journey, please be encouraged to know you are doing a vital work for the current and next generation of believers. There may be no greater threat to Christianity than a world that cannot comprehend truth combined with a Church that fails to stand up for it.

Each week of this study, we will address an important topic concerning truth and Jesus Christ. After viewing selected clips from "Nothing But The Truth," you will lead your small group through a reading of relevant references from the Bible. This is followed up with engaging questions designed to enhance comprehension of the material and inspire discussion. We suggest you end each small-group discussion with prayer that focuses on preserving, protecting and sharing the truth with others.

During the first week's study, we will look at the conflict between biblical truth and individuallydetermined truth. During the second week, your small group will investigate the erosion of truth in our culture and in the church itself. You will come to understand how Christians have fallen for the same lies bought and sold by those who don't claim Christ. In week three, we'll look at our responsibilities as Christian citizens, contending for the faith, and sharing the truth in love. We will close out week four by looking at how we can replace lies with truth in our thinking, live truthfully in marriage, and influence the next generation for truth.

These sessions are designed to last about an hour: a few minutes to gather and introduce the session, about 10 minutes to view a video clip, and the balance of time for scripture reading, discussion and prayer.

**INVITATION:** You might wish to allow for extra time in week four as we've provided a BONUS clip and an opportunity to invite anyone in your group who does not yet know Jesus Christ to come to Him. You'll find helpful information about starting a relationship with Jesus on the final page of this Guide, RECEIVING THE TRUTH.

Whether or not you include the BONUS clip and invitation, we trust you and those in your small group will come away from this study with a stronger sense of urgency to stand for Biblical truth in your homes, churches, schools, workplaces and communities.

We at Love Worth Finding hope your four weeks together examining truth will be a blessing to you and to each member of your small group.

Sincerely, Cary E. Vaughn, CEO





This is the question Pilate asked Jesus before sentencing Him to death on a cross. Two thousand years later, our world is still grappling with the idea of truth. Can it really be known? Is truth unique to each of us?

Though it has long been accepted that some things are simply known to be true, modern society has begun to blend the distinction between that which we can know for sure and our own personal feelings. In this opening lesson, we will look at the concept of absolute truth and how it conflicts with the message of "living one's own truth" often pushed today.

1 WATCH

What is Truth Film Clip (11 minutes, 15 seconds) featuring: Pastor Adrian Rogers, Founder, Love Worth Finding Ministries; Dr. Ed Newton, Pastor, Community Bible Church, San Antonio, TX; Lee Strobel, Author, Apologist and Evangelist; Len Munsil, J.D., President, Arizona Christian University; Mike Huckabee, Former Governor of Arkansas; Pastor, Evangelist, Author; Jennifer Rothschild, Author, Speaker; Jonah Sorrentino, Artist, Speaker

2 READ

"Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." JOHN 14:6

"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth." JOHN 114

"You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. They are of the world. Therefore they speak as of the world, and the world hears them. We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error." 130HN 4:4-6

For they "exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen." ROMANS 1:25

"Therefore know this day, and consider it in your heart, that the Lord Himself is God in heaven above and on the earth beneath; there is no other." DEUTERONOMY 4:39

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths." PROVERBS 35-6

**3 DISCUSS** How can I know what I'm hearing is the **truth**? What is the world's definition of **truth**? What is God's definition? Why is it problematic for different people to have different **truths**? Is there a difference between **truth** and facts? What do you think about Jesus' exclusive claim to be absolute **truth**?

## **4** PRAY

(You may wish to use this as a guide for your small-group prayer.)

Father, help us to understand Your truth and to recognize the lies that are now commonly accepted in our world. Help us also to recognize that as children of God we have overcome the lies of this world because You are in us and You are greater than the ruler of this world. You reign in power above all the noise and confusion around us. Give us Your grace to live out Your truth so that the world will see You high and lifted up, shining in the light of Your glory. We trust You. We lean on you and not on our own understanding. We put our hands in Yours and walk with You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.





Many Christians in America believe the lies and ungodly messages of this world lack the ability to sway us as followers of Christ. As we will discover in this week's lesson, this is unfortunately not the case.

Just as the secular world may fall into selfish reasoning and instant gratification concerning marriage, finance, sex, and more, we are seeing similar false ideologies taking root in the Church. How has the erosion of truth in the world at large shown itself in our local churches and among Christian families? Before we can discuss how to fix the problem, we must first diagnose where these falsehoods have gained ground among the faithful.

Erosion of Truth Film Clip (10 minutes, 15 seconds) featuring: Pastor Adrian Rogers, Founder, Love Worth Finding Ministries; Len Munsil, J.D., representing George Barna and the Cultural Research Center at Arizona Christian University; Trillia Newbell, Director of Community Outreach for the Southern Baptist Convention; Dr. Albert Mohler, President of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

## 2 READ

"Justice is turned back, and righteousness stands afar off; for truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter. So truth fails, and he who departs from evil makes himself a prey." ISAIAH 59:14-15

"Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her." EPHESIANS 5:22-25

"And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God." ROMANS 12:2

"Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, 'The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously'? But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: 'God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble. Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you."" JAMES 4:4-7

"The eyes of the Lord preserve knowledge, but He overthrows the words of the faithless." PROVERBS 22:12

**3 DISCUSS** The film identifies lies we are falling for today. What's the biggest lie Christians battle today? What is the one lie you personally struggle with the most? How do you replace lies with truth? Is it fair that God expects me to submit everything to Him?

How can we submit to God in our relationships, marriage, money, and careers?

## 4 PRAY

(You may wish to use this as a guide for your small-group prayer.)

Father we are committed to Your definition of truth but we recognize that we have believed lies and lived in error even in our church and in our families. Forgive us for failing to seek justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with You. Forgive us for failing to submit to you in loving our families as we should. Forgive us for running after the things of this world with more passion than we run after You. Help us to submit ourselves completely to You so that others may see a change in us that would point them to You. Help us always to point to you in the things we say and do so that You alone are glorified. In Jesus' name, let this be.

<sup>1</sup> WATCH





One of the hardest things for a Christian to do today is take a stand for truth. Our culture, though heavily influenced by Judeo-Christian values over the centuries, has seemingly decided to throw off its inhibitions to pursue whatever is right in each person's eyes. An unfortunate side effect of this development is that those who live their lives according to the Bible come across as the annoying chaperones at the high school dance. How are we supposed to influence the world with the truth of Jesus Christ in a day in which the only respected form of truth is individual truth?

This week we want to help you understand how to face your family, co-workers, and neighbors filled with the love and truth of the God you serve. It may not be an easy task, but it is necessary for the times in which we live.

WATCH Stand for Truth Film Clip (8 minutes, 1 second) featuring: Pastor Adrian Rogers, Founder, Love Worth Finding Ministries; Ken Whitten, Senior Pastor, Idlewild Baptist Church; Lutz, FL; Dr. Robert Jeffres, Pastor, Author, Speaker; Len Munsil, J.D., President of Arizona Christian University

## 2 READ

"Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry." 2TIMOTHY 4:2-5

"Cast down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ." 2 CORINTHIANS 10:5

"We should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head— Christ." EPHESIANS 4:14-15

"You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." MATTHEW 5:13-16

"Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." ROMANS 12:21

"Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." ACTS 4:12

"(Love) does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth." I CORINTHIANS 13:6

**3** DISCUSS

S The world exposes us to so many other faiths/religions. Why is it important for us to stand for Jesus? What is the greatest way that we can influence our communities for Jesus? For the Gospel? How can we balance fighting against the evil in our culture while fighting for those who are lost? Is there a way to be both bold for truth and loving in our interactions? How could you apply a "truth-in-love" and "Gospel-first" approach to politics and hot-button issues.

How could you apply a "truth-in-love" and "Gospel-first" approach to politics and hot-button issues today?





4 PRAY

(You may wish to use this as a guide for your small-group prayer.)

Dear Father give us a holy boldness, a determination to stand for the Gospel and tell others the truth in love. We've kept silent. We've had the attitude that we must quietly go along with the world to get along in the world. We know there is salvation in no other name but Jesus, yet we have failed at times to speak His name when we should, to invite others to come to Him, and to help our fellow believers grow up in Him. You have told us that we are the salt of the Earth. Help us to remember that each morning so that we can season each day with Your truth. In Jesus' name, Amen.





As we reach the end of our study, it's important for you to walk away knowing how to live a victorious life in Christ. Now that we are aware of the battle for truth in this world, we understand how lies have infected and impacted the Church, and we feel called to speak truth to all those with whom we come into contact, let's make sure we know how to live our own lives according to the truth of the Bible.

Each one of us must fight for truth in the manner Paul discusses in 2 Corinthians 10:5: "(We are) casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ."

Our hope for you is that you will feel empowered to live according to God's Word so that you are able to positively impact all of those you meet and are free of the bondage powered by the lies of this world.

WATCH Walk in Truth Film Clip (9 minutes, 24 seconds) featuring: Pastor Adrian Rogers, Founder, Love Worth Finding Ministries; Dr. Ed Newton, Pastor, Community Bible Church, San Antonio, TX; Jennifer Rothschild, Author, Speaker; Rev. Jonathan Falwell, Senior Pastor, Thomas Road Baptist Church, Lynchburg, VA; Len Munsil, J.D., President of Arizona Christian University; Mike Huckabee, Former Governor of Arkansas; Dr. Tony Evans, Senior Pastor, Oak Cliff Fellowship, Dallas, Texas

## 2 READ

"So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." ROMANS 10:17

"And these things they will do to you because they have not known the Father nor Me." JOHN 16:13

"The earth is the Lord's, and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein." PSALM 24:1

"But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy. Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation."

"Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things. The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you." PHILIPPIANS 4:8-9

"Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world." JAMES 1:27

"Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing." JOHN 15:4-5

## WEEK FOUR



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"And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ." EPHESIANS 4:11-15

## **3 DISCUSS** How can I best align my life with Biblical truth?

How can we best prepare our families to stand for truth? How can we ensure our churches don't back down from the truth? How can we pass down the truth to the next generation?

## **A** PRAY

(You may wish to use this as a guide for your small-group prayer.)

Father we need to be connected to you with day-by-day, minute-by-minute communion. We want to abide in you so naturally that our thoughts are on what is noble, just, pure, lovely, and of good report. Help us to think your thoughts so that we will say and do the things that please you. Help us to abide so that we are able to walk in Your truth from the rising of the sun to its setting each day. Apart from You we can do nothing; with You we can do all things for Your glory. Forgive us for walking with the world, and as we set our hearts to intentionally walk with You, make us more like You. In Jesus' name, let this be.





As we come to the end of our study, we want to underscore the importance of knowing the One who is truth, Jesus Christ. The final film clip we will look at is about half the length of any we've viewed, but it asks you the most important question you'll ever answer: will you come to Jesus as Lord and Savior?



Bonus Clip (5 minutes, 42 seconds) featuring: Dr. Albert Mohler, President, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary; Pastor Adrian Rogers, Founder, Love Worth Finding Ministries

## **2 READ** "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." JOHN 3:16

Simply stated, this verse tells us four things: God loved. God gave. We believe. We live.

God created us. His love for each of us is real. But our sin keeps us from God. He seems far away because our sin is in the way. The punishment for our sin is death—not just physical death but eternal, spiritual death. So, God sent His Son, Jesus, to die in our place...to rescue us from ourselves.

### God loved and God gave.

What is our response? We can ignore God's love or we can believe it. We can reject God's gift or we can receive it. If we choose to believe Jesus is God's Son who died on our behalf and was raised again, and if we surrender our lives to Him, according to John 3:16, we live.

## We believe and we live.

- **3 DISCUSS** Ask if anyone in your small group would like to have the assurance of being in Christ right now—receiving Him as both Lord and Savior.
- **4 PRAY** Lead in a prayer similar to the following: Dear God, I'm a sinner. I know You love me and want to save me. Jesus, I believe You are the Son of God, who died on the cross to pay for my sins. I believe God raised You from the dead. I now turn from my sin and, by faith, receive You as Lord of my life. Forgive me and save me, Lord Jesus, Amen.



If someone in your small group prayed to receive Christ, Love Worth Finding would like to help the new believer grow in relationship with Jesus by providing free downloadable resources (we'll send those resources in the mail, if preferred).

## To get started, go to: https://www.lwf.org/i-believe





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