

# GOD DEFINES WHAT IS TRUE AND WHAT IS FALSE

FOUNDATION: GOD IS TRUTH - GOD GIVES HIS WORD

## BIG TRUTH: GOD DEFINES WHAT IS TRUE AND WHAT IS FALSE

Proverbs 30:5; Psalm 12:6; 18:30; 19:7-9; 2 Samuel 22:31

## BIBLE VERSE: JOHN 17:17

“Your Word is truth.”

## BIG IDEAS

- God is truth. He not only speaks what is true, but truth is who He is.
- God tells us what is true through His Word and sin is choosing to believe and speak what is false.
- God commands that we speak truth and not lies.

## BIBLE STORY: GENESIS 41

God gave Joseph the ability to understand the truth of Pharaoh’s dream because God is truth and He gives truth through His Word. Joseph gave Pharaoh God’s truth when he explained Pharaoh’s dream.

## FOUNDATION: GOD IS TRUTH - GOD GIVES HIS WORD

God does not just know what is true, He is truth. When God speaks everything He says comes into being. The God who spoke everything into existence determines what is true and what is false. In His grace, God not only is truth, but also gives us the chance to know what is true by speaking. God speaks through His Word (the Bible), and the message of the Bible is given to us by Him. The Bible allows us to know what is true, what is false, and gives us knowledge of the truest thing in the universe, Himself.

## BIG AIMS



### Every child should know that:

- God is truth
- The Bible is the true Word of God
- Truth exists and is important for our lives



### Every child should feel:

- Excitement when they learn something that is true



### Every child should be able to:

- Tell the truth
- Talk about the Bible as the source of truth



### Every child should want:

- To hide God’s Word in their heart by memorizing verses from the Bible

## FAMILY DEVOTION: GOD DEFINES WHAT IS TRUE AND WHAT IS FALSE

God is truth and He gives the truth to His people through His Word. He alone defines what is true and what is false. We can discover this truth through His Word.

GOD DEFINES WHAT IS TRUE  
AND WHAT IS FALSE**BIBLE VERSE: JOHN 17:17***"Your Word is truth."***God's Word Is Truth****The Bible is God's Word and it is the only source of truth.**

- The Apostle John records a prayer of Jesus known as the High Priestly prayer.
- Jesus is the High Priest and during His ministry on earth He prayed a final prayer for Himself, His disciples and all believers.
- In this prayer is an eternal truth about God's Word---it is truth.

**The Bible is not just true; it is the truth.**

- What Jesus teaches in His prayer is that the word of God is absolute truth.
- It is not measured by other ideas or thoughts, but it is the very thing that all other ideas and thoughts should be measured.

**The Bible is for the sanctification of all believers.**

- In the first part of John 17:17, Jesus prays that God would sanctify believers in the truth.
- Sanctification is the believer's life-long process of becoming more Christ-like.
- It is not complete until Jesus returns or we die.

**As Jesus prayed this prayer, He was preparing to go to the Cross.**

- His time on this earth was drawing to a close. Jesus knew that God would send the Holy Spirit and leave His Word---for believers.
- Every part of the Bible is not only true; it is truth. It is absolute and complete.

GOD DEFINES WHAT IS TRUE  
AND WHAT IS FALSE**BOOK: GENESIS 41***Joseph Explains Pharaoh's Dream*

Supporting Scripture: Genesis 39; 40:1-23; 41; John 14:6; 1:17; Proverbs 30:5; I Corinthians 2:10; Amos 3:7; Colossians 3:9-10; Proverbs 12:22

**Teacher Introduction:**

In the Old Testament, God revealed His truth to His people by speaking to them and through His chosen messengers. God spoke through Joseph when He used Joseph to interpret Pharaoh's dream and thus bring about salvation for the Israelites. God continues to speak truth through His written word today, complete and without error.

The narrative of Joseph explaining Pharaoh's dream is more than a story about a man who had a dream. It reveals that true knowledge and truth come only from the one true God. Anything else is just man's attempt at explaining the world that God created.

**Teaching Guide:**

The guide below is provided to help you teach the foundational truth *God Defines What Is True and What Is False*. The three points are the Big Ideas that should guide your lesson as you share the narrative of Joseph Explains Pharaoh's Dream. Footnotes are provided for further study of the text and the ways in which God defines truth and gives His people the truth. Throughout the lesson questions are placed to help you guide the preschoolers to think about and process the narrative and that God Gives the Truth.

**Opening Illustration:**

(Choose a few children to be your helpers. Prior to the start of class make a list of statements that are easily recognized as false. For example: "Sarah has blue hair" or "John is taller than this building." After you say each statement ask the class if it is true or false.)

- How do we know these things aren't true? (We can see with our eyes that Sarah's hair isn't blue and John isn't taller than this building.)
- We can know things are true about God and the world because He gave us His Word and in His Word is the truth. (Hold up your Bible for them to see.)
- (Point to your Bible.) This is God's Word and ALL of God's Word is true.

GOD DEFINES WHAT IS TRUE  
AND WHAT IS FALSE

**BIG IDEA: GOD IS TRUTH. HE NOT ONLY SPEAKS WHAT IS TRUE, BUT TRUTH IS WHO HE IS.<sup>1</sup>**

**God is truth because He is the creator.**

- Everything that exists does so because God created it or He gave the intelligence and ability to man to discover it.
- Truth originates with God.
- Truth does not exist apart from Him because it is who He is.

**God's law and His truth pointed the people to Christ and revealed their inability to keep God's laws in their own power. They needed a savior.<sup>2</sup>**

- God defines what is true and what is false and He reveals the truth to His people.
- He is eternal and the creator of all things. Only He knows best what truth is and He chooses to share this truth with His people.
- Because God is unchanging, He does not lie.



Read John 17:17 with the preschoolers. Write the verse on individual note cards—one word on each card. Hide the cards throughout the room and then allow the preschoolers to find them. Once you have all the cards put the verse together and talk about the importance of always telling the truth.

**Because God is truth and He does not lie, He commands His people to be like Him and not lie also.**

- We can know the truth by knowing God through reading and studying His Word.
- *Why did God tell His people not to lie?* (He is truth and He does not lie and in order for His people to be like Him, they cannot lie.)

1. John 14:6: As Jesus is preparing His disciples for His death, He reminds them that He is the truth. Truth originates with God because God is the creator of all things. Everything God says is true and right and He has revealed truth to His people through His Word.

2. John 1:17: The law was given through Moses and the truth that the people needed a savior was revealed. Grace and truth came through Jesus when He fulfilled the law through his life, death, burial, and resurrection.

# GOD DEFINES WHAT IS TRUE AND WHAT IS FALSE

## BIG IDEA: GOD TELLS US WHAT IS TRUE THROUGH HIS WORD AND SIN IS CHOOSING TO BELIEVE AND SPEAK WHAT IS FALSE.<sup>3</sup>

### The Word has always been because God has no beginning or end.

- Prior to the completion of the written word of God, God imparted truth to people through others.
- These people were called Prophets because they spoke the truth about God and told the people the truth that God wanted them to know.



Sing praise songs with the preschoolers about telling the truth, such as Sovereign Grace's "To Tell the Truth."

### Joseph was one of God's chosen people used to speak truth to others and to point people to the coming Messiah.

- After Joseph's brothers sold him into slavery over their jealousy of his coat of many colors, he was taken to Egypt.
- After awhile, he was put in prison for something he didn't do.
- Several years passed while Joseph was kept in the Egyptian prison.

### While Joseph had been in prison, Pharaoh's cupbearer and baker had also been imprisoned.<sup>4</sup>

- Both men dreamed dreams that Joseph correctly interpreted.
- The men had promised to help Joseph get out of prison when they were released, but they both forgot him at first.

### While Joseph was still in prison, Pharaoh had two dreams.

- Pharaoh asked many Egyptians to explain his dreams to him, but no one could.
- The chief cupbearer remembered Joseph's ability to interpret dreams when Pharaoh could find no one else in the kingdom to interpret his dreams.

### Pharaoh called Joseph to him and asked him to interpret or explain his dreams.<sup>5</sup>

- Joseph did not take the credit for his ability to interpret dreams, but instead gave the credit to God.
- God had chosen to use Joseph to reveal His truth to Pharaoh and Joseph was faithful to speak the truth.

### God is the one who reveals truth and He does so through His Word.<sup>6</sup>

- God spoke through Joseph to reveal the meaning of Pharaoh's dreams as He did so He revealed a truth about His people and His plan for them.<sup>7</sup>
- Many Egyptians had tried to interpret Pharaoh's dreams, but they could not.

### God reveals what is true and He revealed what was true about Pharaoh's dream through His chosen way—His servant, Joseph.

- God's words to Pharaoh through Joseph were not easy words to hear. Joseph had to bear the news of a great and terrible famine.
- Joseph could have changed the interpretation of the dream. He could have only included the positive parts about the years of plenty and left out the years of famine. He could have lied.<sup>8</sup>
- To lie would have been sin for Joseph. God defines what is true. He gives the truth and it is not for man to change it.
- How did God give Pharaoh the truth about what was going to happen in Egypt? (He used Joseph to interpret Pharaoh's dreams to show him what was about to happen.)
- How did Joseph know what Pharaoh's dreams meant? (God had revealed to Joseph the truth about Pharaoh's dreams so Joseph could tell Pharaoh.)
- How do we know what is true? (God gave us His Word to show us the truth about all of life and mankind.)

GOD DEFINES WHAT IS TRUE  
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3. Proverbs 30:5: *Every word of God is true and those who take refuge in it and Him are shielded. Just as God gave the Ten Commandments to the Israelites while they were in the desert to guide them and point them to the truth of their condition, believers are given God's complete word, the Bible to point them to the truth and shield them from the lies of this world.*
4. Genesis 40: 1-23: *After Joseph was sold into slavery by his brothers, he was wrongfully imprisoned. While in prison he encountered two of Pharaoh's men, the chief cupbearer and the baker of Egypt. Both men had dreams that they couldn't interpret, but God spoke through Joseph to reveal the meaning of the dreams to the two men. They promised to remember Joseph when they were released, but they forgot him and he stayed in prison for two more years before Pharaoh called him out of prison to interpret his dream.*
5. Genesis 41:14-16: *Pharaoh called Joseph before him because he had heard that Joseph could interpret dreams. Joseph's response is revealing because he does not take the credit for himself, but instead gives the credit to God. He reveals that he understands that it is God who reveals truth and not man.*
6. Genesis 41:16: *Joseph could have easily taken the credit on himself for his ability to interpret dreams, but he understood that all things are from God and it was God working through him. God reveals His truth through His people in His time and as He determines is best.*
7. I Corinthians 2:10; Amos 3:7: *God reveals his plans and truth through the prophets and through His Spirit. It was through His Spirit that He gave the words written in the Bible to the human authors.*
8. Genesis 39: *Joseph was imprisoned because of the deception and lies of Potiphar's wife. He had been falsely accused of attacking her and her dishonesty placed him in prison for several years. Joseph remained steadfast and imparted only the truth to Pharaoh, even the difficult thing to hear.*

GOD DEFINES WHAT IS TRUE  
AND WHAT IS FALSE**BIG IDEA: GOD COMMANDS THAT WE SPEAK TRUTH AND NOT LIES.****Joseph boldly told the truth about Pharaoh's dreams.**

- In addition to interpreting Pharaoh's dreams correctly, Joseph boldly shared God's plan to help the people survive the severe famine that was coming.<sup>10</sup>
- Pharaoh received the truth from Joseph and did just as God commanded him to do.

**Even when telling the truth may cause others to become angry or upset, God's Word is clear that we must choose to speak the truth.**

- Joseph made that choice and the nation was blessed because of it.
- Pharaoh saw Joseph's God at work because exactly what Joseph said was going to happen, happened.

**God commands us to speak the truth because we are to be like Him and God does not lie.**

- *What happened when Joseph told the truth about Pharaoh's dream? (Pharaoh listened to him, did what he said, and the people had food during the famine.)*
- *Why should we tell the truth? (We are to be like God and God always tells the truth.)*



Talk with the preschoolers about God's Word being all true. Create a truth chart that you can display somewhere in the room. Every time you hear a child telling the truth let them place a sticker next to their name under "truth." Talk with your child about how God always does what He says He's going to do because He always tells the truth. This activity can span several weeks.

9. Colossians 3:9-10; Proverbs 12:22: *In addition to not bearing false witness against others, believers are not to lie at all. In His Word God reveals His command for believers to seek to be honest and truthful. Lying is described as a characteristic of the flesh and not a fruit of the Spirit. Those who seek to be righteous are truthful and honest, not deceptive.*

10. Genesis 41:33-36: *In addition to interpreting Pharaoh's dream, God also spoke through Joseph to help the people overcome the severe famine. Pharaoh was to choose a wise and discerning man to oversee the storing of food during the seven plentiful years. Pharaoh chose Joseph to be this man and during those seven years, Joseph oversaw the storage of enough food to feed the people of Egypt and to sell to those in surrounding areas. This plan was instrumental in bringing God's people to Egypt and in reuniting Joseph with his family.*

# GOD DEFINES WHAT IS TRUE AND WHAT IS FALSE

## HOOKS



### God Is Truth And Only Speaks Truth.

(Play a game of Truth Detectives. Choose one child to be TRUTH. Prior to class find a small, smooth rock or stone and write the word TRUTH on it. Secretly give the chosen child the TRUTH rock and ask him or her to keep it hidden. Then have the children look for the child who has the TRUTH rock. If they can't find it quickly, tell them, "Most of the time we need help finding the truth. Do you know where we have to look for help finding the truth? We have to ask God to help us." Then help the children identify the child with the TRUTH rock.)



- Sometimes the truth is not easy to find.
- Sometimes we have to really search for it and ask God to help us.
- Joseph needed God's help to find the truth about Pharaoh's dream, so God gave him understanding and helped him know what to say to Pharaoh.
- God does the same thing for us. He is truth and only speaks truth.
- Where should we look for the truth?



### God Commands That We Speak Truth And Not Lies.

(Gather the children in a circle on the floor. Play a game of Telephone with them using shorter sentences to make it easier for them to remember. For example: "The sky is really blue today." Help them learn to whisper what they hear in the ear of the child next to them until it gets back to you.)

- What was originally said? How did it change so much? (We couldn't hear or weren't listening well.)
- God commands us to always tell the truth and to never lie.
- Why does God want us to tell the truth? (God is truth and we are to be like Him so we should always tell the truth.)
- Remember Joseph could have changed the truth or left out some of it, but he didn't.
- He told the whole truth and God blessed the people. They didn't starve during the famine because Joseph did what he was supposed to.