

GOD IS TRUTH

SUMMER: FOUNDATIONS

BIG TRUTH: GOD IS TRUTH

Proverbs 30:5; Psalm 12:6, 18:30, 19:9; 2 Samuel 22:31; 1 John 5:6

BIBLE VERSE: JOHN 14:6

"Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'"

BIG IDEAS

- God not only speaks the truth, He is truth.
- God defines what is true and false.
- The Bible is God's Word, the source of all truth.

BIBLE PASSAGE: DANIEL 2:20-23, 27-30, 45, 47

FOUNDATION: GOD IS

"God is" means that there is only one god in the universe. He alone is Lord over everything that exists, and He alone is worthy of our worship. This also means that every good thing that exists comes from God. All good things come from Him because goodness is a part of who He is as the one true God. It is a part of His nature and character to be good, and everything that comes from God is good. Thankfully God has not chosen to withhold His goodness from His creation, but instead gives it freely to us.

SERIES AIMS



Every student should know that...

- There is only one true God, and He is good.
- We can know God because He has made Himself known through creation and Word.
- God alone is our source of life and joy.



Every student should feel...

- Loved by God, and thankful for His love for us.
- Broken over the depth of our sin against God.
- Joy in Jesus, the only Son of God who came to save us.



Every student should strive to...

- Memorize the Bible verse each week about who God is.
- Pray that God would open their hearts and minds to know Him more.
- Tell someone else about the God who is.



Every student should ask God to...

- Learn more about the God who has made Himself known.
- Repent of their sin and of the lies they believe about God.
- Cling to God as the source of truth.

GUIDES AND WORKOUTS

The Guide provides a commentary page on each week's Bible verse and on each Big Idea that unpacks the Big Truth. Each week also includes a Student Workout as a resource to help the student pursue spiritual disciplines on their own. Additionally, each week has a Family Workout that helps equip parents and guardians to have spiritual conversations with their student.



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BIBLE VERSE: JOHN 14:6

“Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’”

God determines truth.

“Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth...’”

- God is the Creator of everything. Everything comes from Him and originates with Him. Because He is the Creator of everything, it all belongs to Him. Just like our own human creations belong to us, all of creation is God's.
- Because He is the Creator of everything, He alone knows what is true and what is not. Truth comes from Him. He decides what is right and what is wrong because He is the beginning. Before anything else very existed, He did. Everything that does exist originates from Him and this means that He is the only one from which truth can come.

His Word is truth.

“Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life...’”

- In the first chapter of John's gospel, he begins by stating the Word was in the beginning. The Word is Jesus and Jesus has always existed. Jesus tells us in John 14:6 that He is the truth. Because He is fully God, He is the only source of truth about anything and everything in life.
- When God's Word was written down for all of mankind, it became our written source of truth. All truth can be found in God's Word, the Bible. We can know and understand the world around us by looking at it through the lens of God's Word. When we seek truth from His Word, we will find it and gain wisdom.

We find truth in God alone.

“No one comes to the Father except through me.”

- Jesus' statement in this verse that He is the only way to the Father is a statement of exclusivity. Because Jesus is the way God has determined that man can be reconciled to Him, Jesus is the only way to know God. If we want to know God, we must know Jesus.
- Because God is truth, the only way for us to know what is true and what is not is to know God. Therefore, we must find the Father through Jesus and then we will discover truth and we will have a right view of the world and ourselves.

BIG IDEA #1: GOD NOT ONLY SPEAKS THE TRUTH, HE IS TRUTH.¹**[THIS]**

God is the beginning of all things. He is the Creator and from Him all things originate. Any concept or idea, such as right and wrong, good and evil, are from God originally. We are aware of these things because of God. He created the world and established truth. He established truth, all that He does and says is true. We cannot know truth without knowing God, the source of all truth.

[THEREFORE]**Where do people go to find truth in today's culture?**

Often, we try to find truth inside ourselves using our own limited thoughts and ideas. We seek it in other things and other people. We look for it in the world around us though the world is fallen and broken. 2 Chronicles 36:16 speaks to the way in which we reject God and His truth and seek our own way out of pride.

What is your primary source of truth?

Colossians 2:8 gives us a warning about seeking truth from the world. The world is full of philosophy and a false idea of truth that will leave us empty and headed towards destruction. Our primary source of truth should be the Word of God and only the Word of God.

[THIS]

God is truth which means that He all that He says and does is true. He speaks truth and He did so through His people, His Son, and His Word, the Bible. There is no falsehood in Him, unlike in man. God is all-knowing and therefore, all that He says will come to pass. When we read His Word, we can trust every word and use them as a guide for our lives. Daniel knew God and when he sought the truth of King Nebuchadnezzar's dream, he found that truth in God. Daniel could interpret the dream because he turned to God for help.

[THEREFORE]**How can we know truth for every situation and circumstance?**

By listening to God, we can know truth. 2 Timothy 2:15 and John 8:32 remind us that we know truth by knowing God. When we have a relationship with God, we can know truth. No matter our situation or circumstance, knowing God helps us know truth that is applicable to any situation.

How do we know what is true and right when the Bible does not explicitly give us direction for our specific situation?

2 Timothy 3:16 teaches us that God's word is profitable for every situation. When we study and learn all of God's Word, we grow in our knowledge of God's purposes and His expressed will. This enables us to know what is right and true about situations that the Bible does not directly speak to. We can know what to do by hiding all of God's Word in our hearts and growing in our understanding of who God is and what He desires for us to do.

Why do we at times ignore the truth even when we know what God's Word says?

Obadiah 1:3 helps us understand that it is the pride in our hearts that leads us away from God. Instead of seeking Him for truth, we trust in ourselves. We think more than we should of ourselves and do not want to rely upon God. Psalm 10:4 also shows us that it is pride in our hearts that keeps us from even acknowledging God in situations in our lives. We can have peace and know truth no matter our circumstances if we seek God first and foremost. Our pride keeps us from doing that.

1. Psalm 119:160: God speaks truth. He did so through Jesus and through His written Word. He is truth.

BIG IDEA #2: GOD DEFINES WHAT IS TRUE AND FALSE.²**[THIS]**

From the first moment that the first man and woman sinned, they began to attempt to define truth and falsehood for themselves. When Eve sinned in the Garden, she determined in her heart that what God had said was not really true. Instead, she attempted to define truth for herself, but it resulted in death just as God had said it would. When King Nebuchadnezzar's men tried to interpret his dream, they failed because they had no real source of truth. Because God was Daniel's source of truth, he could interpret the dream and reveal the authenticity of God.

[THEREFORE]

Why does God define what is true and how is He the only one who can define truth?

God defines truth that we might know what truth is. Without His defining it, we would never know. He is the only one who can define it because He is the beginning of all things as Revelation 22:13 tells us. He alone is able to define truth because it comes from Him.

What are some ways the world defines truth as subjective and how can you use this to point people to Christ?

The world has created a narrative that says truth is what we want it to be. God's Word defines itself as truth in John 17:17. When we encounter this narrative, we can point people to Jesus and share the good news with them by showing them that truth comes from something outside ourselves, someone greater than ourselves.

[THIS]

Though truth can only be defined by God, we often reject His truth, as we see in John 18:37-38. When God created the world, He created an order that is right and established according to His truth. Man breaks this order because we reject God's truth and trade it for our own idea of truth. We try to define truth for ourselves, or we determine that truth can't really be known. We often determine that truth is subjective, that each person can have a different truth, but all of these ideas originate from a sinful heart that has rejected God.

[THEREFORE]

What are some things that God has defined as truth that the world has rejected and defined as false?

Because of the rebellion in man's heart (Psalm 107:11, Romans 8:7), we reject God's truth. Culture decides that truth is not absolute, that every person can define it for themselves. Culture decides that what God has said is a lie. When we follow culture, we seek to live as if people are inherently good instead of inherently sinful.

How should God's people know what is true and false?

God's people should seek God to define what is true and false. Proverbs 3:4-6 reminds us that we should acknowledge God in everything and we will have a straight path.

2. John 18:37-38: God alone determines truth. When He sent Jesus, He sent the truth to the world.

BIG IDEA #3: THE BIBLE IS GOD'S WORD, THE SOURCE OF ALL TRUTH.³**[THIS]**

The Bible is the written Word of God. It was written down by human authors who were inspired by the Holy Spirit. God chose men to write down His Word for all people. While Jesus was on the earth, God spoke to the world through Jesus. When Jesus left the earth after His resurrection, God used human authors to record His Word for all eternity. Before Jesus came to the earth, God spoke through prophets and His Word was recorded by divinely inspired human authors, too. The Bible is complete and true. There are no errors in the Bible. There are no mistakes in it. All of the Bible is God's Word and it is truth that applies to every aspect of life and eternity. By writing His Word down, the human authors recorded forever God's truth, which is the only truth. The written Word of God is a gift to the world. It is His Word given to us as a source of life and truth.

[THEREFORE]

Why is it important to recognize that God's Word is without error?

Because God's Word is our source of truth, our acknowledgement that it is without error helps us look to it for truth in every situation of our life. Proverbs 2:6 and Psalm 111:10 show us the importance of seeking God's Word for wisdom and truth. When we understand and recognize that the Bible has no mistake or error, we will go to it for truth.

Read Matthew 4:1-11. How does Jesus demonstrate the importance of pursuing and studying God's Word as the source of truth?

When Jesus faced the temptation to sin, He used God's Word as His defense and spoke truth to Satan. Jesus is our example of pursuing God and of using His Word as truth. When we face difficult times or are uncertain of things, God's Word is our only source of truth and hope.

[THIS]

Because truth is found in God and we can only know truth by knowing God, His Word is our only source of truth. The Bible is completely true and gives us an understanding of right and wrong. Truth cannot be found in ourselves or others. We can only know truth by knowing God's Word. When we seek to know God's Word, we will grow in our knowledge of Him and our wisdom. When we grow in our understanding of God, our lives will be guided by His truth. We understand right and wrong when we know God. We will submit to the guiding of His Spirit who lives inside of His people. We can look to God's Word for guidance for every part of our lives and every situation we may face. His Word is truth and we are made better by knowing His Word.

[THEREFORE]

Why does it make sense that the Bible should be the source we go to for truth in every circumstance?

Because the Bible is God's Word written down, we can trust it as a source for our lives. It makes sense to turn to the Bible in every situation because God is truth and His Word is His truth in written form. Proverbs 2:6 and Colossians 3:16 remind us that God's Word is our source of wisdom. We should go to it for all knowledge and wisdom no matter our circumstances.

How can you grow in your knowledge of God's Word this week?

Studying God's Word requires discipline. It requires making God's Word a part of your daily life. As you seek to know God, you can set aside time daily to be in His Word. Psalm 119:11, Proverbs 3:1-2, and 2 Timothy 2:15 all show us the importance and value of knowing God's Word in order to know truth and gain wisdom.

3. Job 12:13: God is the source of all wisdom and truth.