

TOTAL REVOLUTION in ME

Session #2: From Relativism To Knowledge Of God

Session Intro: Just a quick note to all you Small Group and Youth Leaders out there. You will notice throughout this session that I point to the character of God as the source of truth and not the Bible. Please note: It is not that I do not hold the Bible in high regard; I DO! It's just that as evangelicals we are sometimes in danger of turning the Bible into the fourth member of the Trinity. TRUTH flows from God's character and has been revealed to humanity through the Holy Spirit and recorded by people in the Scriptures. It is the person behind the Scriptures that is the source of TRUTH. That's an important distinction. Saying to students: "Sex before marriage is wrong because the Bible says so" doesn't work in our culture anyway. Saying: "God's character is one of intimacy, self-revelation, trust, faithfulness and love and so God designed sex to reflect that" hits a chord; it's also true, so we will run with that! ☺

Session Objective: The objective of this session is to help students realise the proper place of truth. The world says: Your truth is only as good as my truth. Jesus says: I am the way the TRUTH and the life. Part of the Christian worldview that we must convert to is the belief in truth as defined by God. "What does God say?" is the new question we must learn to ask; "What works for me?" must be set aside. If we are to show the fruit of the Spirit we must also have the root of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. Students will ask the questions:

- Why does truth matter?
- What is the standard for truth?
- How can I know God better?

Minimum Prep: Read through the entire session outline. Prepare an environment where discussion can occur.

Extended Prep: There is a video series called "**Right From Wrong**" by Josh McDowell that could be used in whole or in part in this session. The video can be borrowed from BCOQ YOUTH by calling (416) 622-8600, ext. 319. If you have only a little extended prep time, consider adding a video clip for cultural punch.

- A funny way to introduce the concept of truth would be to watch a short clip from the movie "**Liar Liar**". There is a useable clip about 9.5 minutes in. The clip begins with the words: "I can't do it!" and ends when the man with the pimple on his nose walks away. Ask: Fletcher had become a successful lawyer through his smooth talking ability. As a result of a wish made by his son he must now tell the truth. Why is telling the truth hard for Fletcher? Tonight we are going to be talking about the truth...

- Another clip to introduce the idea of truth would be from the movie: “**A Few Good Men**”. In this movie Tom Cruise plays a lawyer trying to get a respected Colonel to crack on the stand and tell the truth about a Code Red that cost a young marine his life. In the scene we suggest using, Cruise yells at the Colonel: “I want the truth!” The Colonel yells back: “You can’t handle the truth!” You could then ask the students: Why is the truth so hard to handle? How do you decide what is really truth and what is just your perspective on reality?
- If you have access to a wide collection of “**The Simpsons**” episodes (as I do!☺) then consider using the one where Bart pretends to be a faith healer. Bart discovers that cool music and staged healings will draw a big crowd to Church and so he sets up a tent and puts on a show. The climax line for our purposes comes after Millhouse has sung: “Bart! You’ve restored my terrible vision! Now I see with perfect precision!” He throws away his glasses and dances out into the street. Unfortunately the healing was staged and Millhouse is totally blind. A large truck is coming towards him and Millhouse bends over and says: “Here Kitty Kitty!” before being run over by the truck. The point of that clip is that TRUTH MATTERS. Millhouse and Bart may have put on a good show but the truth caught up to them.

Session Outline

Leader Preamble:

The second movement we will look at is from Relativism to Knowing God. Have you ever heard the song: “If it makes you happy, it can’t be that bad?” That song and countless others like it reflect the cultural value that right and wrong and true or false are practical matters: if it doesn’t hurt anybody than its ok. If it makes you happy to think that than it is true. While those ideas have cultural appeal they are intellectually impossible to uphold and they are incredibly dangerous. Hitler thought that the Jews were less than human and so it was ok to kill them. Was it true for him? No way! God says all people are equal and human life is sacred. If I jumped out the window of a tall building and screamed: “I do not believe in gravity! I find the idea restrictive!” Would I or would I not hit the ground at speed? Truth matters. Tonight we are going to talk about the truth. Let’s take a look at the following clip (Show your clip from either “**Liar Liar**” or “**A Few Good Men**”)

Small Group Questions:

1. **Why is the truth so hard to handle? Why is it so hard to tell the truth?**
2. **Jesus had a few things to say about TRUTH. Let's read John 14:6 and John 17:17-18. In John 17 we get to overhear a prayer of Jesus to God for us. What did Jesus say was the source of truth?**
3. **How do most people in your world decide what is right and wrong? Who do they consult?**
4. **Our culture doesn't like the term: absolute truth. Jesus though, claims to be the truth for all people in all places at all times. That's pretty absolute. Do you think it is important to believe in truth? Does it really make a difference? Why?**

*Studies show that belief in absolute truth and absolute moral standards does have a huge impact on behaviour. Root makes fruit right? In a recent study, teens who indicated they did not believe in Absolute Truth were 36% more likely to get pregnant as a teenager, twice as likely to regularly watch pornography, 3 times more likely to use drugs and 6 times more likely to commit suicide. Source: Josh McDowell, **Right From Wrong***

5. **The Bible calls us to view God as the author and standard for truth. Jesus taught that truth flows from God's character. For example: God is generous, therefore it is a sin to steal. God is faithful, therefore it is a sin to cheat on your wife or husband. Let's go around the circle and try and each match a characteristic of God with a principal of truth.**

To prime the pump: God is love, therefore pornography is a sin. Pornography takes pleasure from another. Love is giving and personal and seeks the best of the other person. God is peace, therefore hostility and violence are wrong.

6. One of the neatest things to ever appear was those little WWJD bracelets. They reminded us that God is the standard of truth and that we needed to get to know Jesus to answer the question WWJD? How well do you know Jesus? What is one thing you know about him?

Let students each share their thoughts. This may even offer you the chance to introduce someone to Jesus for the first time. Be prepared to offer some council on how to get to know Jesus better. Have some resources on hand.

7. How can you get to know him better?

Leader Note: Have some suggestions and resources ready. There are lots of great books for seekers and questers. Contact BCOQ YOUTH – compass@baptist.ca or Paul Carter – paul@lpgc.ca for suggestions.

Comments and Feedback:

Leader Note: This is your place each week to record significant sharing or growth in the lives of your students for subsequent follow up. You can also use this space to provide feedback on the material. All suggestions are welcome.

Please see the following handout. You have permission to reproduce these handouts for your group.