

Truth

There are 147 verses on truth listed in Scripture. Here are seven we will look at together.

Read *Psalm 25:5* - *Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all the day long.*

Point out that David, the psalmist, acknowledges an accurate (truthful) belief about God. David acknowledges that God is the God, not just a god. It is important for us to know that God is Who He says He is. And because David believed God, he was willing to wait on God's timing. That can be a daunting task at times.

Read *Psalm 86:11* - *Teach me your way, O Lord, that I may walk in your truth; unite my heart to fear your name.* Because the heart lies to us, David asks God to unite His heart. David had some experience with "trusting his heart" and it led to His sin with Bathsheba. Remember what Jeremiah said about the heart, *The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it? Jeremiah 17:9*

Read *Psalm 145:18* - *The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.* Ask, when is a time that you have called on God and have believed that He is near? It is more than a feeling (although it can be comforting to not only know intellectually that God is near, but to sense His presence near as well.) Many times people will reflect on God's nearness to them when they find themselves in a difficult situation.

Read *John 1:17* - *For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.* Here John is pointing out the completeness of the law fulfilled through the life of Christ. While Jesus did not nullify the law (actually Jesus fulfilled the law) and because of His act of grace and mercy on the Cross, we see that Jesus demonstrated not only truth, but marvelous grace as well.

John 8:32 - *and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.* True freedom comes through the truth and Christ Himself is that truth.

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.* This is a bold statement by Christ. It is not the first time that He has referred to Himself as "I AM". This is the same "I AM" when God refers to Himself in Exodus 3:14. Moses asked God who he is to say is sending him to deliver the Israelites from Egypt and God says, *"Say this to the people of Israel: 'I am has sent me to you.'" 15 God also said to Moses, "Say this to the people of Israel: 'The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.' This is my name forever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations."*

Jesus is not just referring to Himself as an important rabbi or teacher, but He says that He is God. This is an amazing truth claim.

Okay, one last verse we will look at briefly. Read *Ephesians 4:15* - *Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,* - Paul reminds us that being a truth teller is always to be couched from the motivation of love for the sake of Christ. We can at times get focused on being "right" that we miss the truth.

Let's explore How to take our next steps in faith – (ask participants to be thinking as you work through these where they may be currently in these steps.)

Suckers, skeptics, sluggards and scrooges

1. **Seek Truth.** - people are searching - if you choose not to seek truth then you will live a life of gullibility- How can you seek truth from scripture?
 - The sucker that does not seek truth is lacking discernment. Are you building your life on truth or lies?

2. **Accept truth.** - You are a skeptic when you don't accept the truth. There is a difference between discernment and pride. We must hold the truth of Scripture - commitment issues - a skeptic just wants to be sure but faith creates an issue here. Faith requires that we relinquish certainty. It requires one to release control.
3. **Follow Truth.** - when you accept who God and Christ are you actually follow. So much more than fire insurance. You become a disciple. Most accept truth but aren't willing to follow. The rich young ruler accepted the truth but chose not to follow it. The sluggard refuses to follow, to put their accepted belief into action
4. **Share Truth.** – If you are following Jesus without telling the truth, you are being like a scrooge. When you have the truth but are not willing to assist and help others in their walk you are not a sharer. Withholding forgiveness and becoming bitter are not sharing the truth. Be a disciple that makes disciples.
Ask, What does being a disciple that makes disciples look like in your life?

If you know this movie, you might want to remind people that Michael referenced The Matrix movies – in those movies, everything is a lie and the rebels are trying to save those caught in the Matrix. Don't stay in the Matrix and allow Christ to empower how you are meant to live. Believe the truth of the gospel.

Where do you find yourself in these steps? Are you -

- Seeking – truth from the Bible?
- Accepting - Jesus as your Lord and Savior?
- Following - baptism, affirming the church family, groups, serving, etc.?
- Sharing - through your words as you go, make disciples- wisdom; ministry inside and outside the church; go on mission and live on mission?

Be sensitive to those who may be struggling in their walk.

Ask for prayer concerns.

Pray for one another.