

God Is...
Truth
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TALK IT OVER

Key Scripture:

1 John 1:5 (NLT)

5 This is the message we heard from Jesus and now declare to you: God is light, and there is no darkness in him at all.

Isaiah 45:19 (NLT)

19 I publicly proclaim bold promises.

I do not whisper obscurities in some dark corner.

I would not have told the people of Israel to seek me if I could not be found.

I, the LORD, speak only what is true and declare only what is right.

John 17:17 (NLT)

17 Make them holy by your truth; teach them your word, which is truth.

1 Samuel 15:29 (NLT)

29 And he who is the Glory of Israel will not lie, nor will he change his mind, for he is not human that he should change his mind!"

Deuteronomy 32:4 (NLT):

4 He is the Rock; his deeds are perfect.

Everything he does is just and fair.

He is a faithful God who does no wrong; how just and upright he is!

Psalms 18:30 (NLT)

30 God's way is perfect.

All the LORD's promises prove true.

He is a shield for all who look to him for protection.

Lamentations 3:40 (NLT)

40 Instead, let us test and examine our ways.

Let us turn back to the LORD.

Isaiah 64:6 (NLT)

6 We are all infected and impure with sin.

When we display our righteous deeds, they are nothing but filthy rags.

Like autumn leaves, we wither and fall, and our sins sweep us away like the wind.

Start **talking**. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- How do you recognize truth in what you hear on television or out in public? What do you use as your standard of measure?

Start **sharing**. These questions are to help get your group thinking and to create openness.

- Jeff said, "We accept something as true when it is validated by someone in authority." Discuss why you agree or disagree with this statement.
- **Read 1 John 1:5**. How do we know God is Truth? How does this shape our understanding of truth and our relationship with God?
- **Read Isaiah 45:19 and John 17:17**. How does God's character and nature as Truth impact our trust in Him and His Word? Share a personal experience where you saw God's truthfulness proven in your life.
- Jeff listed 3 consequences of believing that God's words are true. What are they? (Hint: **Read 1 Samuel 15:29, Deuteronomy 32:4, and Psalm 18:30**.) What do these scriptures reveal about God's Word, the bible, and Ultimate Truth?
- What do you think the world believes about the nature of God, His Word, and truth?
- Jeff gave us 2 areas to apply this knowledge: accountability to God (**Lamentations 3:40**) and pursue purity (**Isaiah 64:6**). How does this look in your life?
- How does living in accordance with God's affect your witness? How does this knowledge of God as truth impact your faith walk?

Start **doing**. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- Identify one way that you can apply God's Truth to your daily life in a tangible way. This could involve making a change in your habits or lifestyle, seeking forgiveness or reconciliation with someone, or intentionally sharing the Gospel with someone in your life who does not yet know Christ.

Start **praying**. Be bold and pray with power.

- Praise God as ultimate truth, and give thanks that He has revealed that to us, so that we may be in relationship with Him, and know the truth. Confess where your faith in His truth, and obedience have fallen short and give thanks for the forgiveness offered to us through Christ.

Question: "Is all truth God's truth?"

Answer: In order for something to be declared true, it must be discoverable, transcultural, unchanging, unaffected by attitude, absolute, and knowable. For example, $2+2=4$ is a truth that can be discovered (not created by one person), transcends all cultures, never changes, cannot be affected by feelings, is absolute in its factualness, and is knowable by all of humanity.

These same qualities and attributes can be ascribed to the God of the Bible. God is truth. He made Himself discoverable throughout history and through the Bible (Exodus 8:10); He transcends all cultures in His very attributes (Job 38); His existence cannot be affected by our feelings or attitudes (Psalm 25); He is absolute as the Alpha and Omega (Revelation 1:18); and He is knowable through Scripture and personal revelation by the Holy Spirit (John 16:13).

The ultimate revelation of God and therefore of truth is Jesus Christ. He is the visible image of the invisible God (Colossians 1:15). "Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father," Jesus said (John 14:9). In the same conversation, Jesus equated Himself with truth: "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6; cf. John 1:17).

Since truth itself is part of and proceeds from the nature of God, and all truth is bound up in Jesus Christ, then, yes, all truth is God's truth. If something is discovered to be true, like $2+2=4$ or that love is the ultimate virtue (1 John 4:8), then that truth can only come from the God of truth, as revealed in the Bible.

Pontius Pilate famously asked Jesus, "What is truth?" (John 18:38). In His conversation with Pilate, Jesus said, "You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me" (John 18:37). And that's when Pilate, who found himself between a rock and hard place politically, asked his famous question. The truth was standing right in front of Pilate. Jesus, the only Son of God, was speaking truth to him at that very moment. The truth wasn't a theory or an equation or proof; truth was God in the flesh dwelling among us. Anyone who wants truth that is unalterable (as it should be by nature) must find it in the person of Jesus Christ.

Philosophers, intellectuals, and even artists have tried to name truth apart from Jesus Christ, and it's popular to speak of "my truth" or "your truth" as opposed to a universal truth. Whole generations have rejected absolute truth in the postmodern mindset. But truth is what conforms to reality, and if something is true, it is true for all people for all time in all places.

Creation speaks to the absolute truth of God through Jesus Christ: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" (John 1:1–5).

All truth is God's truth. When a mathematician works with Euler's equation or when a biologist discovers a new species of animal, he is dealing with fundamental truths of how God designed the world. Johannes Kepler, a German astronomer who is called "the father of celestial mechanics," is credited with describing his study of the universe as "thinking God's thoughts after him." Kepler understood that all truth is God's truth.

In a world full of relativism, lies, and half-truths, it's good to know that truth exists. To embrace God, as revealed in Jesus Christ, is to embrace truth.