



September 29-30, 2020

Series: Perspective

Message: How God Sees The Truth

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The Main Thing: *We can't change the Truth, but the Truth can change us.*

Scriptures: Genesis 3:1,4; Psalm 33:9, Psalm 103:9; John 1:14, 8:28 & 32; 2 Timothy 4:3; Hebrews 6:17-19

BIBLE BACKGROUND NOTES:

Genesis 3:1,4 In Near Eastern art and literature, the serpent was a significant character, representing both death and wisdom. Here we see a dialogue between the serpent and Eve about wisdom and the introduction of death after they left Eden. Serpents in the Near East represented wisdom, fertility, health, chaos and immortality, and were often worshipped. Immortality was viewed as being like the gods or having wisdom. Satan caused the woman to doubt God's word and portrayed rebellion as innocent self-interest.

John 1:14 Greeks and Jews would never have conceived of the Word becoming flesh. The "ideal" at that time was the invisible and eternal, not human nature. They had never considered that a God could become a human. God's glory was now revealed in Jesus as it was to Moses in Exodus 34:6, in covenant love and faithfulness. Jesus' glory is revealed in His signs and at the cross in His ultimate act of love. His covenant love was emphasized, not a spectacular show of glory. Dwelt means tabernacled, the Word tabernacled among His people through God in the wilderness and through Jesus among his people.

2 Timothy 4:3 OT prophets who told people what they wanted to hear were usually false. In NT times, politicians, public speakers, and philosophers sometimes told people what they wanted to hear. "Desiring to have one's ears tickled" means desiring to hear only what one enjoys. It could mean people who like to listen to slander.

Hebrews 6:17-19 When God swore "by Himself," His words were guaranteed and, in most cases, He would not change His mind.

Source: *The IVP Bible Background Commentary OT/NT; Serendipity Student Bible*

SMALL GROUP TIME

Icebreakers:

Who is your biggest "influencer"?

How do you decide what to pursue/do in your life?

What are some lies we tell people about ourselves through our social media?

(Ex. My life is perfect, I am beautiful all the time, I am always out doing fun things.)

Questions:

Have your values and opinions changed over time? Why?

Is there one Truth that influences your opinions or many?

How have your feelings influenced you in the past?

What do you think about the idea that Truth never changes?

How is this different from what the World would like us to believe?

(That truth is different for each person, based on what you are thinking or feeling or who you are following at that moment.)

How do we learn what and who Truth is?

(Read the Word, have a relationship with Christ, etc)

What's something that God has said in His Word that you know is true, that you wish was NOT true or you don't understand WHY it's true?

(Ex. "no one comes to the Father except through Christ" vs "all religions lead to God")

Truth is someone we can know.

How does this change your thinking about Truth? (It's not just an abstract concept but a person we can relate to and have a relationship with.)

How does our culture try to change the Truth into lots of little truths that are "true for you"?

(Example: It's ok to change your gender or believe in reincarnation, because that's what you want to believe at the moment.)

How does the Truth (Jesus/the Gospel) change us?

How does it set us free?

What has it set YOU free from?

How is the Truth the opposite of the lies that the Enemy and the World would like us to believe?

What are some practical ways we can share the Truth?