

Loving the Truth Small Group Guide

Warm-up Question: (Choose one, make up your own, or skip this part all together, depending upon the nature of your group.)

1. Do you communicate primarily with a focus on precision and accuracy, or do you like to add color and flair?
2. What has been your favorite experience of the summer?

Read the following passage: Luke 3:1-20.

John, like many prophets who preceded him, spoke very strong words to the people of Israel. His ministry is a reminder to us that we need to be willing to hear what God is saying to us, even when it is uncomfortable.

Questions for Discussion (Choose several that are relevant for your group):

1. Read Luke 1:68-75. What did the Jewish people expect that the Messiah would do for them? In what ways might John the Baptist's ministry have appeared focused in a different direction? What parallels can we draw to our own experience with God concerning what we would like him to do and what he chooses to do?
2. John the Baptist spoke truth from God that was uncomfortable for the people to hear. We know from other passages in the Gospels that many people rejected John's message. What are some reasons we may be hesitant to fully embrace reality? Why do we sometimes avoid engaging the truth?
3. Explain why the statement "One person's truth is not better than any other person's truth" is a self-defeating position. (Hint: Apply that idea to the statement itself.) Why should we be confident that there really is objective truth and objective moral values and duties?
4. Read Matthew 7:1-5. What does Jesus teach about applying truth to our own lives and helping others see the truth?
5. How well do you personally receive instruction and correction to your attitude, beliefs, and behavior? Explain. Do you deliberately seek instruction and correction from other people (not just from books, blogs, or videos)? If so, how?
6. What are some practical ways we can pursue the truth?
7. Read Romans 14:7-8. This passage indicates that we live "for" or "unto" God. How should this reality impact how we respond when others bring us truth that may be

uncomfortable for us to hear?

8. What is one way you can more fully engage truth this week?

Pray