



# THE MORE YOU KNOW

## DISCOVERING TRUTH

**The More You Know**  
**Small Group Material**  
**Leader Guide**

**Part 3 - "A World Without Truth"**  
**October 1st, 2017**

**Bottom Line:** *A world without truth isn't wrong; it's insane.*

**Study Verses:** *Matthew 21:23-27, Psalm 51:6, John 17:17, Psalm 119:160, Proverbs 18:21*

**Define The Win:** *Participants would reflect on the ways they conceal or avoid truth and what motivates this reaction. They would understand the power their words have in creating false realities that keep them from experiencing the freedom of God's truth. Group members would pinpoint issues they are passionate about and consider whether they are seeking truth for understanding or to just confirm their beliefs and biases.*

### **Key Points**

- *Knowledge is designed to connect our souls to the truth.*
- *Language is designed to express our souls desire for freedom.*
- *Language is given as a way to understand and articulate truth.*
- *Information connects knowledge to truth.*
- *In the absence of truth, we create a reality that is governed by our will.*
- *The truth establishes the essence of reality and provides a foundation that will support the weight of our desires.*
- *The truth is that we were made for life with God and life for God.*

- *We were created in the image of God's compelling beauty and greatness and were made to display that beauty and greatness in everything we do.*
- *If we can want wrong things and think wrong things, then we can't depend on our wants and beliefs to lead us to freedom.*
- *Your words have the power to create realities.*
- *We often use information to buttress our beliefs - not to discern truth.*

## **ENCOUNTER**

*"Seek not to understand that you may believe, but seek to believe that you may understand." -St. Augustine*

- **Read the quote from St. Augustine. What are the differences between the two mindsets spoken about in this quote?**
- **What happens to our culture when truth is absent?**
- **What is the danger in using our wants and beliefs to be the sole guide in determining truth and pursuing freedom?**

## **FORMATION**

- **Read Matthew 21:23-27. What was the religious leader's motivation for this encounter with Jesus? How concerned were they about genuinely understanding truth? Why were they careful with their words?**
- **Read Psalm 51:6, John 17:17, Psalm 119:160. How does the truth of our identity in Christ provide a firm foundation for us to walk on? Why did Jesus pray that we would be sanctified in His truth?**
- **Read Proverbs 18:21. In what ways do our words hold power in shaping our reality, perspective and understanding of truth?**

## **EXPRESSION**

- **What false realities are you speaking into existence through your words? Why are you given these words power to shape your perspective?**
- **What issues are you gathering information about to buttress your own beliefs rather than seeking understanding and encountering truth? What does the Gospel do to this issue?**
- **Where are you attempting to conceal or avoid the truth? Why are you reacting to your situation in this way? What would it look like to mine for truth regarding these circumstances?**

**LEADR INSIGHT:** *Our words and our minds have the power to create realities that shape how we view the world and our part in it. Sadly, we are prone to remain stuck within them. Why? Because they require little effort on our part and we are able to avoid the hard work required of seeking out what is true. These false realities influence the way we interact or label others. They fool us into believing that what we are seeing, feeling and thinking is true. They confirm our biases, viewpoints and limited perspective.*

*These strongholds reside nowhere close to freedom and peace. Not only do they leave us divided as a person, but they enable division to take root in our communities. A world without truth isn't wrong, it's insane.*

*Because we can want wrong things and believe wrong things, we can't depend on them to lead us to life. So, what else do we have? How can we experience the security and purpose we crave? It comes only when we are willing to mined for truth and wisdom. We have to put our agenda to the side and be willing to seek out truth in a way that sets us free. The truth provides us a foundation that is strong enough to support the weight of our desires.*

*Understanding truth establishes the essence of reality. Not only that, but it gives us purpose. We were made for life with God and life for God. We were created in the image of God's compelling beauty and greatness and were made to display that beauty and greatness in everything we do. The way of Jesus is the redemption of that image and the power by which we actually live in a way that reflects His glory.*

*Scripture speaks of the tongue having the power of death and life. When our words are disconnected from the truth, we create false realities. Knowledge is designed to connect our souls to the truth while language was designed to express our soul's desire for freedom. Language doesn't simply communicate, it expresses. It helps us understand and articulate truth.*

*Unfortunately, we have the tendency to use our words to conceal and avoid the truth. We play word games in order to avoid looking inside of our heart. Yet, God desires truth in our innermost being. Truth is discovered as it is revealed.*

*The knowledge we seek must reach beyond what we want or hope to be true and instead be anchored to the truth. The ways of Jesus is very different then the ways of this world, which are filled with shortened truths and diminished realities. Together, as a community, we can bring a force of sanity into our culture by being a place of grace and truth.*