



THE MORE YOU KNOW

DISCOVERING TRUTH

The More You Know
Small Group Material
Participant Guide

Part 1 - "What Happened?"
September 17th, 2017

Bottom Line: *When knowledge replaces trust, we will never get to love.*

Study Verses: *Genesis 2:8-9, Genesis 2:15-17, Genesis 3:4-7, 1 Corinthians 8:1-3, John 8:31-32*

Define The Win: *Participants would reflect on their pursuit of wisdom and truth. They would recognize that knowledge requires humility and submission. Group members would pinpoint places where their emotions or having the heart set of a scoffer is prohibiting them from pursuing wisdom.*

Key Points

- *The truth is more than facts and information. It is a force that demands submission.*
- *Obedience to truth purifies the soul.*
- *Everybody has been disappointed by what they believed.*
- *Believing something deeply has no bearing on the truth of it.*
- *Truth is simply the state of what is real.*
- *Wisdom begins with God's perspective.*
- *You can't give or get enough information to build a relationship.*
- *Knowing as you ought isn't a matter of mere facts. It's a matter of trust.*
- *Knowledge puffs up while love builds up.*

- *Scoffing is where skepticism meets arrogance.*
- *To authentically pursue truth, you must hold out the possibility that you might be wrong.*
- *A scoffer seeks wisdom in vain.*

ENCOUNTER

- When you hear the word "truth" what comes to mind? How would you define truth? Who gets to determine what is true?
- What drives our desire for knowledge and truth? What are some positive, as well as negative, motivations for seeking out truth?
- What is the connection between truth and trust? What role do our emotions play when we encounter truth?

FORMATION

- Read Genesis 2:8-9 and Genesis 2:15-17. What two trees were planted in the middle of the Garden of Eden? What was God protecting Adam from by prohibiting him from eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil? In the midst of the prohibition, what freedom still existed?
- Read Genesis 3:4-7. How did the enemy cause Adam and Eve to question God and His character? How was trust broken? What made gaining wisdom desirable to them?
- Read 1 Corinthians 8:1-3. What does Paul (the author of 1 Corinthians) mean when he says that knowledge "puff up" while love "build up"? Why is humility required when one pursues truth?
- Read John 8:31-32. What is it about truth that sets people free? Why don't many of us experience this type of freedom?

EXPRESSION

- Wisdom begins with God's perspective. Think of a situation you are having a hard time understanding. How can you see things from God's perspective and how would this view alter your attitude and actions?
- Believing something deeply has no bearing on the truth of it. What power do our emotions have in clouding our judgement? Can you think of a time when your emotions caused you to ignore or deny wisdom?

- **To authentically pursue truth, you must hold out the possibility that you might be wrong. Where do you need to display humility in your pursuit of the truth? What is causing you to be a scoffer in this situation?**

LEADER INSIGHT: In our age of “fake news,” we’ve become increasingly more distrustful of information. We wonder if there is truly a reliable source out there. With trust eroding, we question people’s agenda and the information they are telling us. This hesitation extends to God.

But, doubting our Creator is nothing new. It’s been happening since Adam and Eve were placed in the Garden of Eden and told not to eat of the tree that contained the knowledge of good and evil. They had everything their hearts desired. They experience unhindered connection and communion with God. They were given a garden full of trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food (Genesis 2:9). Yet, even with all this freedom, they were willing to give it all up for the opportunity be like God.

The enemy told a tale that God didn’t want Adam and Eve to be like Him and, because of that, He was willfully withholding knowledge (Genesis 3:5). This was the accusation. The enticing appeal was the concept that knowledge is power. It would make them, and us, feel a sense of superiority and control. The more we know the less we will have to entrust ourselves to another.

Information overload occurred the moment the first bite of the apple took place. The enemy knew that if he gave humans enough information they couldn’t handle it and would destroy each other with it. And, we fell for it hook, line and sinker. We now find ourselves locked into a cycle that says if we just know more and understand more, then we will finally be free.

We think information will bring us peace because it buttresses our perspective and supports what we can see. This only creates a vicious cycle leading to nowhere. Why? Because one can’t give or get enough information to build a relationship. When knowledge replaces trust, we will never get to love. The truth is more than facts and information. It is a force that demands submission. Knowing as we ought isn’t a matter of mere facts. It’s a matter of trust.

We can’t allow our emotions, our circumstances or our limited perspective cloud our judgement. To authentically pursue truth, we must hold out the possibility that we might be wrong. This admission is impossible if we display a scoffer’s heart. Scoffing is where skepticism meets arrogance. A scoffer seeks wisdom in vain, or doesn’t seek wisdom at all because they believe they are the smartest person in the room. Knowledge has the power to lead one to arrogance. Humility is required when we pursue truth. Knowledge puffs up while love builds up. Wisdom begins with God’s perspective.