



THE MORE YOU KNOW

DISCOVERING TRUTH

The More You Know
Small Group Material
Leader Guide

Part 4 - "Knowing Is Freeing"
October 8th, 2017

Bottom Line: *If the truth doesn't compel you to love, you haven't driven it far enough down to be free.*

Study Verses: *1 Corinthians 8:1-3, Mark 12:29-31, 2 Timothy 2:15*

Leader Guide: *Participants would reflect on how they discover, process and interpret truth. They would recognize that an encounter with God's truth and knowing they are loved by Him compels them to love others. Group members would pinpoint where they need to drive deeper into the truth to uncover issues they are wrestling with and why they are resistant to trust God in his area.*

Key Points

- *Everything finds its meaning and purpose within the context of its relationship to God.*
- *God's truth provides a foundation that is strong enough to support the weight of our desires.*
- *Freeing truth compels us to love.*
- *Jesus defined truth in the context of a relationship and as an expression of love.*
- *Knowledge might mess up what we think about what we are thinking.*
- *Truth isn't given to make us correct, but rather to make us free.*
- *Whoever loves is known by God and it is this knowing that serves as the source for which we love others.*

- *Our hearts must be awoken to love. Our minds are useful to that end.*
- *Truth is always found in the context of a relationship instead of a principle or an issue.*
- *We can use freedom up and end up enslaved.*

ENCOUNTER

"Our ceaseless craving for more, though it can kill us when unredeemed, may be a hint of the joy we are made for when the soul finds its center in God." -John Ortberg

- Read the quote from John Ortberg. How do we twist truth to fit our agenda, feed our cravings and fulfill our selfish desires?
- What are some truths you've attempted to establish that you hoped would bring you closer towards freedom (ex. If I get married, I'll be happy. If I'd had more money, I'd feel more secure. If we can all agree on this issue, we will find peace)? How did these "truths" fall short of your desires?
- God's truth provides a foundation that is strong enough to support the weight of your desires. Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not? What makes you answer in the way that you do?

FORMATION

- Read 1 Corinthians 8:1-3. What is the difference between a knowledge that puffs up and a knowledge that compels one to love others?
- Read Mark 12:29-31. What implications are there to Jesus framing the greatest commandment question in a relational way? What connection does a relationship have with truth? How does loving God impact our ability to love others?
- Read 2 Timothy 2:15. How does one know if they are "correctly handling the word of truth"?

EXPRESSION

- As you look back on these past four weeks, how has your approach to truth changed? What was the greatest insight you gained from this series? Why did this insight stick out to you?
- Lust, envy, anger, comparison, jealousy, indifference, complacency, etc. Where do you need to dig deeper into the truth to expose the state of your heart?

- **How can you utilize your mind to awaken your heart to love when it comes to this issue?**

LEADER INSIGHT: *In our minds, we create “truths” that determine our direction and influence our perspective. They are often rooted in our desire to experience freedom, peace and hope. Chasing after those things, and proving to others they are true, becomes our agenda and purpose. They are so powerful they don’t even need to be verbalized to control our mindset and lay claim to our heart.*

Often, they began with the word IF. As in, if I get married, then I will finally be happy. If I had more money, then I would feel more secure. If humanity could all agree on my side of the issue, then there would be unity.

Each IF/THEN statement is based upon what we think will handle the affections of our souls. Yet, no matter how hard we might push for them to be true, they always leave us disappointed. They crush under the pressure because they weren’t designed to be the source of our hope.

Truth doesn’t set us free so that we can do whatever we want. In fact, that is no freedom at all. If we’re not careful, we can use that freedom and still be enslaved through our self-absorption.

This is a pursuit of truth that doesn’t lead to freedom, but rather frustration and futility. Why is this case? Because everything finds its meaning and purpose within the context of its relationship to God. The only foundation strong enough to support the weight of our desires is God’s truth. Our lives were created in the image of God to demonstrate His compelling beauty and the greatness of His love.

Freeing truth compels us to love. We demonstrate our understanding of God’s truth in the way we give our lives away. The way in which we do this flows from our relationship with our Creator and our willingness to stay connected to Him. Rather than a principle or an issue, truth is always found in the context of a relationship.

Human beings are designed to relate to one another in the context of love. Whoever loves is known by God and it is this knowing that serves as the source for which we love others. Our hearts must be awakened to live. Our minds are useful to that end. The heart is the source of love while the soul and mind are instruments of love.