

Revive

A Love for Truth

Write this to Ephesus, to the Angel of the church... I see what you've done, your hard, hard work, your refusal to quit... I know your persistence, your courage in my cause, that you never wear out... But you walked away from your first love... Revelation 2:1-4 Message

God wants me to love truth

Into Your hand I commit my spirit; You have ransomed me, O LORD, God of truth. Psalm 31:5

I have no greater joy than this, to hear of my children walking in the truth. 3 John 1:4 NASB

DISCUSSION: Do you love truth? How does your life show that?

DISCUSSION: How much trouble do you have telling the truth? Do you struggle more with telling the wrong information or omitting information? Both are lying.

DISCUSSION: How did you feel about Mike in the video when you found out it was fake? How do you think God feels when we do the same?

1. Loving truth means...

a. I don't lie to people

He who speaks truth tells what is right... Proverbs 12:17 NASB

So stop telling lies. Let us tell our neighbors the truth... Ephesians 4:25 NLT

Know the difference between being real and rude

...speak the truth in love... Ephesians 4:15 NLT

DISCUSSION: To whom are you lying? About what are you lying?

DISCUSSION: What are your motives when you lie? What are you covering?

b. We live transparent lives

Jesus told him, "I am... the truth..." John 14:6 NLT

With Christ as my witness, I speak with utter truthfulness. My conscience and the Holy Spirit confirm it. Romans 9:1 NLT

DISCUSSION: How are you living a transparent life? What are you hiding privately that you have been unwilling to share with your community? In what part of your life do you find it easiest to hide?

c. We are not afraid to look deeply into ourselves

Behold, You desire truth in the innermost being, And in the hidden part You will make me know wisdom. Psalm 51:6 NASB

DISCUSSION: What is your response when you recognize error in your life? Do you justify and blame or own it and grow? Why?

DISCUSSION: What is the core of your fear in looking more deeply at yourself?

2. Loving truth opens the door to developing a real relationship with God

The LORD is near to all who call upon Him, To all who call upon Him in truth. Psalm 145:18

DISCUSSION: What is holding you back from developing a more authentic relationship with God? How has the lack of truth contributed to that?

3. Choosing truth is the release you have been looking for

...the truth will set you free. John 8:32 NIV

We're rooting for the truth to win out in you. 2 Corinthians 13:8 Message

DISCUSSION: Do you desire to rejoice in the truth? What are you willing to do in order to get there?

DISCUSSION: What did you write on your bracelet? How did you feel about wearing your sins on your wrist? What was most difficult? Where you more concerned about what people might think of you or the fact that those sins are present in your life?

PRAYER EXERCISE Since there is the possibility that we can lie to ourselves about all of these things, take 5-10 minutes and ask God to reveal the truth about where you are and where you are lying to yourself and others and what affect it is having on those relationships. Ask Him to make you into a person of truth. As always, share with your group.