

SERMON BASED CURRICULUM



Date & Sermon Series:

July 18/19, 2015; Revealed

Speaker:

Pastor Heather Zempel

Scripture Focus: Ephesians 4:17-32

Note To Leaders:

This weekend we discussed “Truth Revealed.” These questions provide a framework to prompt or foster discussion. Don’t feel you have to use all or any of these questions and you don’t have to make it to the end! Use the questions that best fit your group and let discussion flow.

Icebreaker Suggestions: Is there a time when you told the truth and paid the price for it? Or maybe a time when you didn’t tell the truth and paid the price for lying?

Sermon Series Questions:

1. What thoughts are still resonating with you from the sermon?
2. What was most encouraging or challenging about this weekend’s message?
3. The book of Ephesians tells us there are things within us that God wants to REVEAL to us and open our eyes to. Not only that, but he wants to call these things out of us. What needs to be revealed to you during this sermon series?

Specific Questions:

1. At the beginning of her sermon, Pastor Heather asked a few questions regarding truth. Discuss any or all of these with your group.
 - a. Is what is true for me true for others? Or is it just my perspective? Do my experiences and perspective change what is true? Or is there a truth that changes my experiences and perspective?
 - b. Who am I to dictate truth to others?
 - c. When our perspective changes over time, how do we know the difference between truth and opinion?
2. It’s not just the concept of truth that we sometimes wrestle with. There are specific

truths that we often find difficult to understand or believe. What faith questions do you wrestle with?

3. Pastor Heather said that truth is not ultimately found in a list of statements but in the person of Jesus, that Jesus through his words and actions demonstrated God's character as one who:

- Provides
- Restores
- Includes
- Shows mercy and compassion
- Relates to us
- Loves
- Is all powerful
- Pursues us
- Remains faithful
- Exemplifies grace

How does this change the way we understand truth? What impact does this have on the way we speak truth to others?

4. Pastor Heather said that real truth is not restricting but is liberating. Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?
5. In Ephesians 4:25-32, Paul gives us instructions on how we can live out this truth of God's character in our relationships with others:

- Tell the truth.
- Don't be ruled by anger.
- Don't steal.
- Work hard.
- Give generously.
- Speak positively.
- Be kind.
- Forgive each other.

When we do these things, we represent the truth of Christ. Our statement of faith ceases to be empty words and becomes a powerful testimony for Jesus. In which of these areas do you need to better represent Jesus?

6. Is there a time when you chose to live according to the truth of Jesus and the character of God? What was the result?

Challenge:

Each morning this week, ask the Holy Spirit to help you grow in the area you identified in question four, and look for opportunities to live that out throughout your day.

Each night, reflect briefly on the day, focusing in on any opportunities you had to represent the truth of Jesus in this area. Consider journaling your thoughts, feelings, and anything you sense the Lord might be saying to you. You don't have to write a lot, even just 3-4 sentences will do.

Consider sharing this experience with your group next week.