

2.3 HUNGRY FOR THE TRUTH

WHAT IS WISDOM?

Wisdom is not the amassing of knowledge. The sheer volume of information available on the Internet is enough to boggle the mind, and experts say the amount of data will soon double every day. But information is not wisdom. In fact, even if you could commit all this information to memory and claim it as knowledge, knowledge is not wisdom. So, what is wisdom? Wisdom is truth lived.

One of the beautiful things about young people is *you are hungry for the truth*. And because of this hunger for the truth, you *hate being lied to*.

The broken philosophies we just explored and the stinking thinking that comes with them lead to the lie that there is no truth—and if there is no truth, there is no right and wrong. This is among the most absurd claims modern culture makes.

This kind of stinking thinking makes happiness impossible.

The good news is *there is truth*. Some things are true for everybody. There is such a thing as right and wrong.

You know this already from your own experience. Tell a lie and you will feel uncomfortable with yourself. You will also notice that lying makes you more anxious and less joyful. Anxiety represents the world. Joy represents God. Every lie takes you further away from God and his joy, and deeper into the anxiousness of the world.

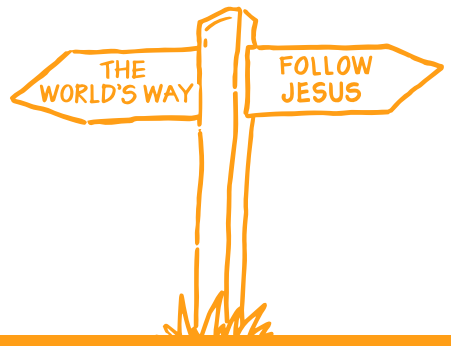
If someone else lies to you, you feel that they have wronged you in some way. How can they wrong you if there is no right and wrong?

You're smarter than the culture. Rebel against it.

There is such a thing as truth—not this rubbish of *your truth* and *my truth*, but **universal truth**. Truth is bigger than you and me; truth is bigger than everyone. There is such a thing as right and wrong. And you will only ever be happy to the extent that you align your life with truth, and make choices based upon what is right.

Truth and happiness are connected.

Ever since Adam and Eve were in the Garden of Eden, God has been trying to lead us in this truth, and we have been rebelling. When we walk with God in his truth we find happiness and fulfillment. When we rebel against God and turn our backs on his truth, we find misery and discontent.



In the book of Exodus we read the story of Moses leading the people out of slavery in Egypt and into the Promised Land. Every person and every culture has questions about what is right and wrong. This is how God answered the Israelites' questions:

1. You shall love the Lord your God and serve him only.
2. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
3. Keep holy the Sabbath.
4. Honor your father and your mother.
5. You shall not kill.
6. You shall not commit adultery.
7. You shall not steal.
8. You shall not bear false witness.
9. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.

I know, it may seem a little old-fashioned, but *wisdom is never old-fashioned*. Let me suggest an exercise. Watch the news tomorrow night with this list in front of you. As each story is presented you will notice that most of the news is bad news. (The culture focuses on what is bad. God invites you to focus on what is good.) After each story is presented in the news program, ask yourself, which of the Ten Commandments was broken?

The truth is, the list is brilliant. It is pure genius. Wherever you find injustice and misery in this world, you will discover that at least one of the Ten Commandments has been broken.

Now ask yourself: How would the world be different if we just lived by the Ten Commandments?

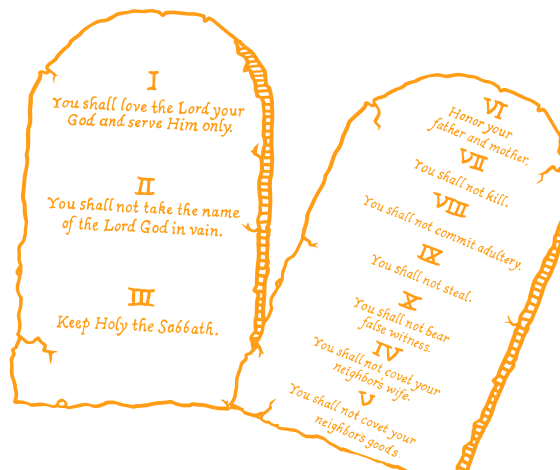
Imagine all the misery and heartache that could be avoided if we all just lived by these ten nuggets of life-giving wisdom.

The Book of EXODUS

The Book of Exodus is the second book in the Old Testament. It tells the story of how the people of Israel, led by Moses, left slavery in Egypt. They journeyed through the wilderness to Mount Sinai, where God promised them the land of Canaan (“the Promised Land”) in return for their faithfulness. Israel entered into a covenant with God, who gave them laws to live by and instructions for the Tabernacle. It was in the Tabernacle that God promised to live among them, lead them to the Promised Land, and give them peace.



What do you think was Mary's favorite Scripture passage?



Discussion QUESTIONS

1. DESCRIBE A TIME WHEN YOU WERE NOT “HUNGRY FOR TRUTH,” WHEN YOU DIDN’T WANT TO KNOW THE TRUTH. WHY WERE YOU AVOIDING IT?

2. THINK ABOUT A DISTURBING STORY YOU HAVE SEEN IN THE NEWS RECENTLY. WHAT HAPPENED? WHICH OF THE TEN COMMANDMENTS WERE BROKEN?

3. WHEN WE EXAMINE THE TEN COMMANDMENTS, THE OBVIOUS WAYS OF VIOLATING THEM ARE APPARENT, BUT WHAT ARE SOME OF THE MORE SUBTLE WAYS WE CAN BREAK THEM? For example, most people will never be in a situation in which they are tempted to break the Fifth Commandment (You shall not kill). But most of us have killed someone’s reputation with gossip. Go through the commandments one by one and discuss the not-so-obvious ways each can be broken.
