

News Story Summary

Recently, Sadie Robertson of “Duck Dynasty” fame found that hiding from God is a bad idea. In a recent interview, she explained how she had been afraid she would fail Him again, and had been keeping some things hidden in her prayer. She soon discovered that her distrust of God only increased her distance from Him. The longer she hid from God, the “quieter the voice of truth got.” Her change came when life “slapped her in the face”! Everything began to heal when she realized that God’s way is the *truth*, and that she needed to align her prayers, and her life, with Him.

Sadie offered suggestions to those who see only God’s judgment and are afraid of Him. His descriptive names suggest he is everything we need, like “The Way, the Truth, and the Life,” “sovereign,” “a rock,” and “love.” She said, “Pursue truth today, and you will find truth.”

(For more on this story, search the Internet using the phrase “Sadie Robertson used to hide things”.)

Focus Attention

To supplement the Focus Attention idea share the news story and ask: *How would you characterize Sadie’s initial response? What might keep a person from being honest with God? How does understanding God’s true identity change how we relate to Him?* Explain that a closed mind will inhibit God’s revelation, and such a person will not “respect” God’s Son (v. 37).

The Jewish religious leaders, who should have been the first to recognize the Messiah, were often the most reluctant to believe. Jesus referred to them as “hard-hearted,” “stiff-necked,” and “slow to believe.” Their predisposition doomed them.

Challenge

To supplement the Summarize and Challenge ideas, remind group members of the news summary and ask: *How might we increase our receptivity to God? Having done that, how can we lead others who are resistant to open up to God’s revelation in Christ?*

Read Proverbs 11:30. Explain that our righteousness (surrender and commitment) is first; then we gain the wisdom of Christ. Lead the group to silently create a list of a few people they will commit to pray for and then develop a strategy to help them overcome their resistance to Jesus.