

# STRAIGHT TALK

**biblical communication**

**Tell the truth!**



Week 3  
10/22/23



# WELCOME



Welcome to the Fall 2023 Life Group Series! For the next five weeks, we will be learning about Biblical communication principles.

Why are we learning how to communicate? Haven't we been communicating for as long as we can remember? Yes! But things have changed. Technology has had a huge impact on how we communicate with one another. Twenty years ago, we had an easier time getting along with friends, family, and coworkers because most of our communication was verbal. We talked in person or called people on the phone.

When we disagreed with someone in conversation before smartphones, we tried to do it gently. Saying something nasty to someone in person might get you punched in the face. Say it on Facebook, or over a text, and you'll just get unfriended or blocked. COVID, the culture war, and smartphones have drastically altered how we communicate - even with our own family and loved ones. A lot has changed, but the principles of Biblical communication have not changed. They are...

1. Listen before speaking.
2. Be open to correction.
3. Tell the truth.
4. Hold one another accountable.
5. Handle conflict in a way that leads to peace.
6. Use speech that edifies.
7. Forgive one another.

We hope you enjoy this time COMMUNICATING with your Life Group as we teach one another how to honor God and one another in our speech.



## THINGS TO DO BEFORE LIFE GROUP

- If you're bringing a new person to the study, we recommend getting them study materials ahead of time so they can feel prepared.
- Pray that the LORD will open your eyes and heart to receive the lessons he has to teach you in the study.
- Read the scripture focus for the study.
- Go through the questions and think about how you might answer them. We've provided space in the study for you to write down your answers if you'd like.






# INTRO

"Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?" Bailiffs ask witnesses this question before they give testimony in court. Why? Because if it's in a court, then someone's life, family, property, or freedom is at stake. Courts address weighty issues, and good decisions must be made according to the law and the facts of the case. The truth is so essential we send people to jail for telling a lie to the court.

What's more important than a person's life, family, property, or freedom? Their eternal destiny. Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. We must be bold in our proclamation of the truth that we might honor the gospel, and our lives should be transformed so that we crave, love, and share the truth in all circumstances - whether it be in court, our career, our finances, or our family life. The life of a Christian is characterized by truth-telling.



## HISTORICAL SNAPSHOT

The events of our text take place during Jesus' earthly ministry. Then, like now, people liked to jockey for position and power - scribes, Pharisees, priests, Herod, and Caesar all sought to exert their control over other people. Was Jesus yet another player in the power game? People were trying to figure out exactly who Jesus was, so Jesus told them. Jesus was a rabbi who taught the truth, which sets God's people free (John 8:32). Jesus so radically taught the truth in the face of overwhelming odds that his enemies, who loved lies, decided to kill him.

## COMMUNICATION TIPS

Here are some benefits of telling the truth. Can you think of others?

1. You don't have to remember the lies you've told. No need to "keep your story straight."
2. People may not like the truth you tell them, but if you do it respectfully, you will gain their trust. They'll always know where you stand, even if they disagree with you.
3. When we're honest with people and gain their trust, we can make deeper connections with them. People don't like to share their lives with liars.
4. You'll never get caught in a lie. You'll never have to apologize for lying.
5. Truth-tellers tend to find other truth-tellers. Good people are attracted to trustworthy truth-tellers. When you tell the truth, you invite other truth-tellers in your life who will be honest with you - an essential element of any romantic relationship or friendship.

**LET'S**

**TALK**

**ABOUT IT**

*Notes*

## What We Believe

1. Read John 8:39-47. Who was Jesus talking to? What was Jesus' audience's objection?
2. Jesus tells his listeners that they are not doing "the deeds of Abraham" (verse 39). What were the deeds of Abraham? What were people doing instead?
3. Why can't Jesus' listeners understand what he's saying?
4. According to Jesus, what characterizes the life of a child of God? What characterizes the life of a child of the devil?

## God Speaks to Us

1. Is your life characterized by the truth? How do you know if it is or isn't?
2. Communicating with people all over the world has never been easier, thanks to the internet, cell phones, and social media. We're continually bombarded with information and messages. How do you discern truth from falsehood when consuming media?

## God Speaks to Our Family

1. Jesus says that the children of the devil inherit their father's love of lies and hatred for the truth. What attitude toward the truth will your children or the children of the church inherit from your speech and behavior? How can we best model truth-telling for our children?
2. Sometimes, we avoid telling the truth because it's uncomfortable. What difficulties can arise from telling the truth in a marriage? Do the benefits of telling a hard truth outweigh the difficulties it might cause? Explain your answer.

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## God Speaks in Our Worship

1. Read John 4:23-24. If we are to worship God properly in spirit and in truth, we have to come to terms with two very real truths. They are: 1. God is perfect. 2. We are not. What elements of worship help us come to terms with these truths?
2. Would you want to worship a God who does not always tell the truth? Why or why not?

## The Gospel Call

1. What role does truth-telling play in our presentation of the gospel? Is it ever appropriate to bend the truth a little to get more converts? Why or why not?
2. Truth-telling makes the church a credible witness to the world. What hard truths have the church embraced and presented with vigor? What hard truths have we shunned and ignored? Why have we emphasized some over others? Is this a problem? Why or why not?

