



## The TRUTH About – Making Good Choices 14<sup>th</sup> August 2021 Brian Greenaway

This Study Guide provides a summarised study with additional discussion questions based on the scriptures mentioned in the sermon.

### Connect:

1. Would you generally say you make good choices?
2. How do you make these good choices?
3. Why is God's way better than your way?

“There is a way that *seems* right to a man,  
But its end *is* the way of death.”

Proverbs 14:12

### Engage:

4. Read [Judges 2:10](#) and [Judges 17:6](#)
5. Why does the history of Israel involve great faithfulness and spectacular failure?
6. Oxford Dictionaries word of the year in 2016 was 'Post Truth' (the word dates back to at least 1992 and the concept much earlier). We are well past that concept when people just accepted truth. People pursue what they want to believe, regardless of the facts.
7. Post truth:
  - We acknowledge a truth exists, but we don't care because it gets in the way of our personal preference. So, our subjective feelings or opinions matter more.
  - We willingly promote blatant falsehoods, but we do it because we want to promote a political or social agenda.

ACTUAL transcript of a US naval ship with Canadian authorities off the coast of Newfoundland in October, 1995. This radio conversation was released by the Chief of Naval Operations on 10-10-95.

**Americans:** “Please divert your course 15 degrees to the North to avoid a collision.”

**Canadians:** “Recommend you divert YOUR course 15 degrees to the South to avoid a collision.”

**Americans:** “This is the captain of a US Navy ship. I say again, divert YOUR course.”

**Canadians:** “No, I say again, you divert YOUR course.”

**Americans:** “THIS IS THE AIRCRAFT CARRIER USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN, THE SECOND LARGEST SHIP IN THE UNITED STATES' ATLANTIC FLEET. WE ARE ACCOMPANIED BY THREE DESTROYERS, THREE CRUISERS AND NUMEROUS SUPPORT VESSELS. I DEMAND THAT YOU CHANGE YOUR COURSE 15

DEGREES NORTH. THAT'S ONE-FIVE DEGREES NORTH, OR COUNTER MEASURES WILL BE UNDERTAKEN TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF THIS SHIP."

Canadians: "This is a lighthouse. Your call."

- In other words, you cannot deny the truth, if you continue to deny it in the end you will collide with it.

## Framework:

8. Read [John 14:6](#)
9. What is Jesus saying with this bold and definitive statement (the scripture above)?
10. When Jesus talks about truth He does not just give us facts. He gives us a journey, a choice that involves absolutely everything about our lives.
11. Read [Hosea 4:6](#)

"We are in many ways the product of choices that we have made in the past."

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12. How do we as followers of Jesus make the right choices?
13. The Bible doesn't give us an answer about every aspect of life, so how do we make decisions?
14. How do we live in truth?

"The only way to live the truth, is to know the truth. How do we know the truth?"

By making truth personified the central part of our life."

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15. The use of the word 'truth' in the Bible is not linked with belief or social customs. What is it linked too?
  - When we look at the concept of truth in Hebrew, it has the idea of stability or faithfulness. Sometimes, authenticity or reliability. You see that it is living and flexible to all circumstances.
  - How do we make good decisions when there is no specific guidance in the Bible for our particular situation?
16. Read [1 Timothy 2:4](#)
17. Putting our trust in Jesus becomes our reference point. So, no matter how bad and disorientating the whole world around us becomes, if we fix our eyes on Him then He gives us the stability we need.
18. This is what faith is all about; it's about not having all the answers, but trusting Him anyway because He is the only one who knows the truth.
19. Read [James 4:13-16](#)

- God does not give us all the answers for everything we face, but as we grow in our relationship with the One who is truth embodied, then we can be assured that He will be with us in every situation.

20. Next time you face a difficult situation:

- Don't ask the Lord: "What is the answer?"
- Ask: "What is the question?"

21. When you need to make the right decision:

- Don't first ask the Lord: "How do I make the right decision?"
- Ask: "Who is this right for?"
- Ask: "What is my motive for wanting this to go a certain way?"

Our characters are flawed and our decision making is often selfish.

22. Read [Psalm 119](#) - Each verse has a word that relates to the truth of God's word. As you read through the 176 verses, you will find one for every situation in life; when you are persecuted, discouraged, lost, have sinned, etc.

### **Prayer:**

"Dear Lord, help me to seek your Presence in my life to help me make good choices. In Jesus Name Amen."