



## TRUTH – About Truth 01<sup>st</sup> August 2021 Mark Wiltshire

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

### Connect:

1. Why is truth important?
2. If it were true that house prices would collapse, would you spend everything you had on a new house?
3. If it were true that you could get a great deal in a local shop, would you pay more on the internet?
4. If it were true that your partner would be unfaithful, would you still marry them?
  - Confidence in TRUTH (facts) probably affects every decision in life.
  - Truth is the foundation for everything in life, it creates Trust!

### Engage:

5. What is truth?
6. Read [John 18:37-38](#)
7. What does the above scripture reveal?
8. How does Pilate's response reveal the great human reaction?

“Journey of life for many is not about TRUTH but survival.”

Pastor Mark Wiltshire

9. John Lennon once said, “I believe in everything until it's disproved. So, I believe in fairies, the myths, dragons. It all exists, even if it's in your mind. Who's to say that dreams and nightmares aren't as real as the here and now?” But you could spend part, if not all, of your life believing ‘the wrong thing’ just because it hasn't been disproved yet.
10. How is truth defined?
11. What is the opposite of truth?
12. Read [John 8:44](#)
13. People seem to be in a world of ‘partial truth’ as long as life works for them. But what about the inevitable impact on others?
14. Are white lies, OK? What is a white lie?
15. What does, “The Truth, the whole Truth and nothing but the Truth” suggest?

## Framework:

16. Where do you go for your source of 'truth'?

17. Read [Proverbs 14:20](#)

18. How much time do you spend in the wrong areas of truth?

19. Major sources of 'Truth':

- **Nature & Science** (empirical observation/libraries etc.)
- **Philosophy and Ideology** (In the late 1800's, Nietzsche argued, "All claims to truth collapse into claims to power.")
- **News and Social Media** (perception becomes reality; opinions, conspiracy theories)
- **Spiritual Truth** – Bible. As Christians, our ultimate and final authority on everything is God's word.

"Truth *does* matter. The most powerful antidote to the post-truth society is to have educated, engaged and well-informed citizens who refuse to allow themselves to be blinded by the agendas of those who thrive from the erosion of trust."

The Commonwealth Centre for Connected Learning (3CL Foundation)

20. (The Social Dilemma) As 'the product' how much are you really worth?

21. How can I use social media, but protect myself and others from being deceived?

"We've created a world in which online connection has become primary. Especially for younger generations... anytime two people connect, the only way it's financed is through a sneaky third person who's paying to manipulate those two people. So, we've created an entire global generation of people who were raised within a context, with the very meaning of communication, the very meaning of culture, is manipulation."

*Jaron Lainer*

"Two billion people will have thoughts that they didn't intend to have because a designer at Google said this is how notifications work on that screen that you wake up to in the morning."

*Tristan Harris*

22. Why can you trust the Bible is 'Truth'?

23. Five major reasons:

1. **Eternal Significance** - Goes beyond our own 'truth' ideas
2. **Carries God's own words** - 40 authors, 3 languages, 66 books, 1500 years

24. Read [2 Timothy 3:16-17](#)

3. **God is Unchanging & Cannot Lie** - Reliable - Read [Malachi 3:6](#) & [Titus 1:1-2](#)
4. **Bible is Proven to be True** - History, Prophecy, Impacts today
5. **Produces Faith, Lives Change** - Reading and living - Read [Romans 10:17](#)

**“Scripture is there to be a means of God’s action in and through us - which will include, but go far beyond, the mere conveying of information.”**

Tom Wright (Book: Scripture and the Authority of God)

25. Why can you trust that Jesus is The Truth?

26. Read [John 14:6](#)

27. Jesus is Central Person in ALL of scripture (whole bible points to Him)

- Jesus revealed that He was God (incarnate) ‘the Word’
- Jesus demonstrated the power of God
- Jesus revealed the nature and love of God - We can know Him!

**“Man prefers to believe what he wants to be true.”**

Francis Bacon

**“In a time of deceit, telling the truth is a revolutionary act.”**

George Orwell

28. There are many sources of information that distort TRUTH. Complete TRUTH, no matter how painful, is a solid foundation for everything in life.

***We will impact the world if we speak Truthfully, and live in Truth!***

*Pastor Mark Wiltshire*