

GodSense

Lesson 2 *(Principles 6-9)*

TEACHER NOTES

I. Review Lesson 1 assignment

II. Recognize lies

A. Culture claims to be devoted to truth.

We hold these truths to be self evident . . .
Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth . . . ?
Truth, justice, and the American way!

B. Yet, we are barraged on every side by deceit.

Advertisements promise what they cannot deliver
Politicians say whatever will garner votes
People are two-faced
Reporters “spin” the news
CEO’s deliver falsified numbers
Product labeling is misleading

C. We must begin to recognize lies and decide to pursue and live by truth alone.

III. Desire truth

Psalm 51:6

Ask: What do you think David meant by “truth in the inner parts?”

A Jesus is God

Jesus is Truth

If we desire truth, we desire God.

Seeking truth takes active effort; it goes against the grain of a society that is hooked on deceit.

B Satan is a liar

Satan is the Father of lies

If we settle for lies, we follow Satan.

This path requires no action on our part; no effort. Simply accept what is going on in the world around us.

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C We cannot choose both. Psalm 119:128
John 8:42-47

Ask: How do these verses help us understand that we must make a choice – that we can't have it both ways?

We cannot follow God AND Satan. Any dilution of or compromise of truth results in falsehood, lies, deception.

IV. Seek truth

Truth endures forever. Once you see it, you cannot unsee it. It will never change.

Have humble, teachable spirit.

God will reveal truth as we are ready to receive it.

A. Know Jesus John 14:6

He is the Truth. Truth is not an end in itself, but we need it to follow the Way and to live the Life. Real Truth is a relationship. After a time of great deception during the Tribulation, Jesus comes with these names: Word of God, Faithful, True (Revelation 19)

B. Study God's Word Psalm 119:43,130;160

Ask: What does the writer of this psalm say in each of these verses about the word of God?

It is Truth; look at Scripture with fresh eyes. Try to get rid of preconceptions as you read and study.

C. Ask Holy Spirit for revelation Psalm 119:73,125

Life changing truth is realized, not just learned. John 14:16-17

D. Accept mystery Romans 11:33

There are things we will now know and understand this side of eternity. We don't have to know it all. We simply have to accept and act upon what we do know.

V. Experience truth

Truth that doesn't just inform, but transforms.

A. Know your true self Proverbs 20:24;21:2

Ask: What do these verses tell us about the limits of human understanding?

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We have learned to put up false fronts and to do and act as people expect us to. It is time for us to get real with ourselves so we can be real with God.

i. Hear friends; counsel Proverbs 27:6
Since we cannot always see ourselves accurately, we might enlist the help of friends or a counselor to give us feedback and guidance in getting down to the real truth of who we are and what we might be covering up or burying.

ii. Respond to the Holy Spirit Proverbs 16:2
He reveals our hearts if we are ready to receive what He can show us. Ask for guidance, for openness, and for understanding.

Hamlet: To thine own self be true; then thou cannot be false to any man.

iii. Be free from
Control by others
Prejudices
Fears
Guilt
Perfectionism
Measuring up
Covered sin

iv. Receive healing
Getting hurts and emotional or spiritual sickness out into the light of truth enables healing to occur. While it is buried it will simply fester and rot.

v. Experience growth
As long as you are learning and applying truth to your life, you will experience personal, emotional, and spiritual growth.

B. See others in truth

i. Beware of deceivers.
If you are aware of lies, address them in love. Separate yourself from deceitful people if it becomes necessary to do so in order to protect yourself.

ii. Have compassion for sufferers.
Knowing yourself and the gift of discernment offered by the Holy Spirit combine to enable you to recognize when people are acting out of pain and to respond accordingly.

VI. Apply truth
With revelation comes responsibility.

A. Beliefs I Peter 3:15
Study God's Word and books by trusted authors. Learn to give an answer for what you believe

B. Worship John 4:24
Our worship must encompass both Spirit and Truth. We need to worship a God we know as true, not one that we make up to meet our needs.

C. Communication Ephesians 4:15;25
We must be honest with people, but must do so in loving and compassionate ways.

D. Relationships Zech. 8:16-17
Truth will enable us to deal with relationships with honesty and with wisdom.

Which way would you rather live? God's way of truth which brings freedom, honest relationships, and peace? Or Satan's way which is full of deceit, lies, and untrustworthiness? You must make a choice and follow it. You cannot choose both truth and lies, both God's way and Satan's way.

ASSIGNMENT

Lesson 2

Bible study

Read II Samuel 11-12 and answer these questions:

(1) Look at each of these verses in chapter 11 and tell what sin David committed and what he could have chosen to do instead:

VERSE	WHAT HE DID	WHAT HE COULD HAVE DONE
2	<i>Looked lustfully on Bathsheba</i>	<i>Walked away, not stayed to watch her bathing</i>
3	<i>Asked for information about Bathsheba</i>	<i>Dismissed thoughts of her from his mind</i>
4	<i>Summoned her to come to him; slept with her</i>	<i>Engaged his mind and self elsewhere asking God for strength to overcome his temptation</i>
10	<i>Tried to force Uriah to sleep with his wife so he would think that the child was his own</i>	<i>Confessed his sin and made it right</i>
13	<i>Helped Uriah get drunk so that he would sleep with Bathsheba</i>	<i>Confessed his sin and made it right</i>
15	<i>Arranged for Uriah to die</i>	<i>Confessed his sin and made it right</i>

(2) How might David have rationalized his actions in each of these cases?

He was the king and had the right to have any woman he wanted. He was under a lot of stress – after all his country was at war. God would understand.

(3) By the end of chapter 11, how do you suppose David felt about the way he had handled the problem created by his adultery?

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He thought his sin had been successfully covered up and would remain hidden forever. How little did he know that this carefully concealed sin would become the most famous sin in the history of mankind!

(4) Why did Nathan have to use a story in order to help David understand his guilt?

Because David had deceived himself into thinking that his sin was covered, that it was no big deal, and that he was acceptable to God and to others. He had not recognized his own guilt.

(5) What does this tell us about how easy it is to deceive ourselves?

We are masters at rationalization. If we really want to believe a lie, we will figure out a way to do so. We must allow the light of the Holy Spirit to reveal to us areas where we have accepted and believed lies.

(6) What is David's response when he realizes the magnitude of his sin?

Repentance. He was shocked to realize his own sinfulness, but fully acknowledged it in a plea to God for mercy.

(7) How did David's repentance allow him to be healed and restored to both God and his wife?

Although David and Bathsheba lost the child of their adultery, they had another son who succeeded David as King of Israel. David continued with military victories which were, in those days, a sign of God's blessing.

Journaling

Write down some thoughts in response to these questions. In what situations are you most likely to put on a false front? Why? What people make you most cautious about being yourself? Why? Is there anything you can do to be more real in these situations or with these people?

Prayer

Spend some quiet prayer time asking God to reveal to you any sins that you may be hiding even from yourself. Let Him review with you your thought life, your relationships with others, your attitudes, and your motives. Ask Him to shine the searchlight of the Holy Spirit into your heart and to show you where your secret places are. Confess in full honesty to God and accept His true and complete forgiveness. Thank Him for the closeness of the relationship you can have when even secret sins are uncovered and forsaken.

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“He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.” Proverbs 28:13

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