

WEEK 5 — THE GOSPEL TRUTH

“Jesus is our Truth and our Grace, the One whose love leads us face to face.”

INTRODUCTION / OPENING

Good morning! Throughout this series we have been discussing TRUTH. So, what I'd like to do is have someone join me up here for a trust fall. If you would just come on up, and at my queue just drop, I will catch you. Okay? Just joking. I saw fear in some of your faces. Is it whether I would catch you or whether I could handle catching you?

But, seriously, who do you trust when ...The doctor calls, the bill shows up, or a relationship starts falling apart

Who do you call first - Who do you believe when it really matters?

Because in those moments, when anxiety is high that we begin to ask ... “What if this doesn't work out?” “What if I'm on my own in this?”

Some of us are here today loving Jesus... but quietly exhausted from carrying things we were never meant to carry alone.

We reach for whoever we believe will show up, tell us the truth, and not abandon us.

So after everything we've covered in this series, the real question today isn't just, “What is truth?”

It's also, **“What — or who — do I actually trust when it's time to put my weight down?”**

Because the truth that shapes your life is not just the truth you agree with — it's the truth you trust enough to lean on.

“You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.” (James 2:19)

James says it this way:

In other words — belief and trust are not the same thing.

But TRUTH isn't just something we debate — it's **Someone we are invited to trust.**

Matthew 7:21 says, “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of My Father.”

In other words — God doesn't just want our **words**.
He wants real surrender. He wants a real relationship.

CULTURE VS GOSPEL

Now, our culture says: "All roads lead to God." "You can make your own truth."

But the Gospel says... the answer is not just any road but one road.

There was a time when my dad was really sick, and doctors didn't have answers. And in that season, I started looking for meaning and control anywhere I could find it — even in New Age spirituality — I was desperate and needed something that felt solid.

And what I learned in that season is: you can be sincere, you can be searching, you can even be spiritual... and still not be standing on Truth. C.S. Lewis once said, "***If we find ourselves with a desire that nothing in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that we were made for another world.***"

And that's why truth isn't just a concept. Truth has a name. And His name is Jesus.

ILLUSTRATION — COLORED SUNGLASSES

Think about it like this — if I put on a pair of colored sunglasses, everything I look at starts to take on that color.

Nothing out there actually changed... but the way I see it did.

And the truth is, we all look at life through some kind of lens — our experiences, our pain, our fears, and what we trust most.

If I trust money, I see through security.

If I trust control, I see through fear of loss.

If I trust other people's hype, I see through fear

That's why saying "my truth" can feel empowering, but it's exhausting — because now I must carry the weight of defining reality.

But when we let Jesus be Truth, we're not guessing anymore — we're seeing life through His lens, not just our own.

JESUS IS THE ONLY WAY

As we've been discussing these past few weeks, not all roads lead to God.
And we don't get to make up our own road.

Jesus said in John 14:6:

"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

Not through good intentions. Not through being spiritual.

Not trying harder **but through Jesus.**

And that's where we must discuss something that isn't always popular... but is totally necessary. We have to talk about sin.

Because if there were no problem, we wouldn't need a Savior.

HERE'S WHY SIN EXISTS ...

Sin exists because God wanted relationship, not robots.

Real love requires real choice.

But when humanity chose independence over dependence on God, something broke—not just in the world, but in us.

Sin isn't just bad behavior; it's broken relationship.

REFLECTIVE MOMENT

So let me ask you — not to shame anyone — but to help us be honest before God:

Can you see areas in your life where you keep choosing your way over God's way? Are there places where pride, fear, unforgiveness, bitterness, control, or compromise have quietly taken the wheel?

I want us to consider this not because God is pointing a finger at us, but because He wants to heal what's broken — not just cover it up.

No amount of good works, kindness, or religion can erase the gap that sin created. That's why salvation is not something we achieve — it's something we receive.

Only through Jesus. That's the Gospel.

Hear me on this — it's not about trying harder or being better. It's about surrender.

God wants our relationship with Him to be so real that it shows up in how we live — even before we ever say His name. It's about coming to Him.

And once we see that, the question isn't just, "What is true?"
Can I trust Jesus with my life?

And the cross answers that question forever. So here are ways for us to go from knowing truth to trusting in Truth ...

1) LEARN TO TRUST IN GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

When fear shows up, we naturally reach for what feels safe and controllable.

The Bible shows us this with the Israelites.

² "Remember how the Lord your God led you all the way in the wilderness these forty years, to humble and test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep His commands. ³ He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your ancestors had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord. ⁴ Your clothes did not wear out and your feet did not swell during these forty years," (Deuteronomy 8:2-4 NIV).

They saw God part the Red Sea.

They ate manna from heaven.

And Deuteronomy says their clothes didn't wear out and their feet didn't swell for forty years.

God provided again and again.

And yet when things felt uncertain, they said,

"We want a king. We want our own plan. We want something we can see and control."

Not because they didn't believe God existed...

but because trusting Him felt risky when fear showed up.

And let's be real, we do the same thing.

We don't drift because we're bad. We drift because we're afraid.

Isaiah 41:10 says,

"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with My righteous right hand."

2. THE CROSS PROVES GOD IS WORTHY OF OUR TRUST

But Jesus doesn't just tell us what is right — He shows us what love looks like. He didn't protect Himself and leave us behind — He gave Himself for us.

Romans 5:6–8 says that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us — when we were helpless and undeserving.

John 1 says He came full of grace and truth.

And verse 17 says:

"For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ."

Not grace without truth. Not truth without grace.

Both, perfectly, in Him.

So when Jesus says, "Follow Me,"

He's inviting us into a relationship proven by love.

Sometimes we talk about the cross so much that we forget how personal it really was. Jesus wasn't just paying a debt — He was loving people who were hurting Him.

Luke tells us that while Jesus was being mocked, beaten, and nailed to the cross — while people were literally killing Him —

Jesus prayed:

"Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."

The crazy of this is ... Not after they apologized. Not after they changed. Not after they understood.

While they were still hurting Him...

He prayed for them.

That means the cross isn't just where Jesus paid for sin — it's where He showed us the heart of God.

So we can rest assured, that even in the times we may not understand and struggle to trust Him, He is still interceding for us to come and lay our burdens on Him that we may have rest.

3. TRUST BEGINS WITH OUR SURRENDER

Proverbs 3:5–6 says:

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight.”

This Scripture speaks directly to our priorities. Are we seeing this?

Because trust isn't just about what we say we believe — it shows up in what comes first.

For many of us, God isn't rejected... **He's just rearranged.**

He fits in around our schedules, our weekends, our plans.

And here's what I've learned — when priorities are out of order, things start to get weird.

If I prioritize my job over my family, my family eventually feels it.

If I prioritize money, hanging out, or success over God— everything starts to strain.

But when I place God first — not perfectly, but intentionally — everything else begins to line up.

It may not look perfect at the beginning.

It may feel uncomfortable at first.

But try it... and see.

Because trusting God with first place isn't about control — it's about alignment.

It doesn't say “believe.” It says trust. Lean.

Surrender is the moment we shift our weight.

We follow Jesus not just because He's right — we follow Him because He loves us.

So obedience becomes gratitude, not guilt.

Surrender becomes trust, not pressure.

Devotion becomes response, not obligation.

Obedience → Gratitude

Surrender → Trust

Devotion → Response

So let me ask you...

What is the one thing you know God has been nudging you about... that you've been holding onto?

Because the One who gave His life for you can be trusted with your life today.

2 Timothy 1:9:

“God saved us and called us to a holy life, not based on our works but by His own purpose and grace in Christ.”

CLOSING

Trust is never just a thought — it's a shift.
So right where you're sitting, shift your weight.
It's a picture of surrender.
It's saying, "God, I'm done carrying this alone. I'm leaning into You."