



# SESSION 1

## TRUTH COMES FROM GOD

**BIBLE STORY:** Satan Tempted Adam and Eve (Genesis 2–3)

**SOME PEOPLE SAY:** Truth can be different for different people.

**GOD SAYS:** Truth comes from Me.

**TODAY'S POINT:** Truth comes from God.

**THEME VERSE:** Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God. *Romans 12:2*

And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. *Romans 12:2 (KJV)*

**BONUS VERSE:** The entirety of your word is truth, each of your righteous judgments endures forever. *Psalms 119:160*

Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever. *Psalms 119:160 (KJV)*

## BIBLE BACKGROUND

### INTRODUCTION

You have only to open your social media feed to see people clamoring and fighting back and forth about their opinions. This session's "Some People Say" statement is clear on nearly every screen. *Some people say truth can be different for different people.* They say we can each define truth according to our own personal desires and wishes.

We can be so thankful that the Bible speaks into this chaos and anarchy. God's Word says that God is truth and the author of truth. Truth originates with God.

The question quickly becomes: which voice are we going to follow? Today's session takes us back to the beginning as we are studying Genesis 2–3. In this passage, we discover that truth comes from God and all that He says in His Word is true. We see the origin of the false belief humans are prone to: the idea that God is not telling us the truth. We can also witness the consequences of defining truth apart from God. Today's session reveals four distinct truths about God, all of which point to the fact that truth comes from Him.

## **TRUTH: GOD IS THE CREATOR (GENESIS 2:1-14)**

The first truth we discover in this passage is that God is the Creator. In six days, He created the heavens and the earth, plant life, birds, animals, fish, and the first man and woman. Then He rested on the seventh day.

We do not need to go any further to understand that truth comes from God. Since He is the Creator of the world, naturally He has the power to define what is true and what is not.

The motto for this year's VBS is: God's truth never changes. The same truth that God wrote into the fabric of the universe is true today. Though we are just getting started, we already have a choice to make. Are we going to trust man's word and thoughts or are we going to trust that truth comes from God?

Trusting that truth comes from God takes us all the way to the very beginning, to the first moments of creation. God is the Creator. He created truth. If we are going to trust that truth comes from God, then we need to do so from the start.

## **TRUTH: GOD PROVIDES LOVING BOUNDARIES (GENESIS 2:15-25)**

Most, if not all, parents would say that at least some boundaries are a good thing. Most at least agree on basic things like keeping hands away from a hot stove and bodies away from a cliff edge. Even though the rules may appear to change when those parents become grandparents, grandparents set limits too. Children need boundaries to feel safe. After all, with no boundaries, a child is at risk of dangers they are not even aware of. When no boundaries are in place, children and grandchildren will try to take control, and this is not a good thing. They are not equipped for this. Providing zero boundaries for our children and grandchildren is anything but loving.

Because God loves us, He has boundaries for us. He set several for Adam and Eve. His goal was not to limit their experiences but rather to protect them. His first boundary was the gift of work. The Bible says that God placed Adam in the garden and told him to "work it and watch over it." This was before the fall, so we know that work is not a consequence of sin. Instead, Adam was called to work because it is good to work. Work can be difficult for reasons that can be seen in today's passages. But the truth, which comes from God, tells us that work is not a punishment but rather a good gift. We can experience the joy of sharing with others from the work of our hands and the joy that comes from doing something God made us to do.

God also set a boundary against the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. The purpose for setting this boundary was because if Adam and Eve were to eat of it, they would certainly die. We warn our children and grandchildren not to run out into the street or eat things given to them by strangers. We provide this warning because we know that they could get hurt. We provide this warning because we love them and not warning them is unloving. God provided this warning, not out of a desire to limit Adam and Eve's freedom but rather out of love. The truth, therefore, is that God provided boundaries then and He provides them now because He loves us.

## **TRUTH: WE HAVE STEPPED OUTSIDE OF GOD'S TRUTH (GENESIS 3:1-7)**

Even though God clearly articulated His boundaries, Adam and Eve did not fare so well in trusting God's truth. As a matter of fact, they blew it. We have two lessons that we can learn from them.

First, it is vital for us to trust the words of God when we feel tempted to step over one of His boundaries. When Satan approached Eve, he called God's words and character into question. He asked Eve if God really said what He said. Satan also implied that God was holding out on her because if she ate the fruit she would become like God.

The second lesson to learn is that when we step outside of God's truth, we negatively impact not just ourselves but also those around us. Genesis 3:6 says that after eating the fruit, "she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it." Adam was with her, and we do not see any evidence of him providing warning or fighting against the temptation. Instead, Eve's choices impacted Adam. He also chose to eat the fruit.

If we are being honest, we would all admit that we can relate to Adam and Eve. We would like to think that we have a firm grasp on God's Word, and we are ready to stand up to temptation. But when the time comes, we find ourselves giving into the temptation because the temptation is "delightful to look at and ... desirable" (Genesis 3:6). We also believe that no one else will know if we give in and it will not impact those we love. This is a lie Satan would prefer us to believe. God's Word shows us the exact opposite is true. Instead of being frustrated at Adam and Eve's actions, maybe we can learn from their choice of stepping over God's boundaries and avoid making the same wrong choice.

### **TRUTH: GOD IS GRACIOUS (GENESIS 3:8-24)**

Some may describe God as an angry, authoritarian figure who is looking for an opportunity to strike down anyone who steps outside of His dictates. This is not the truth. The truth is that God is gracious and loving. We see evidence of this in today's study.

The first example of God being gracious and loving is that He came looking for Adam and Eve. God, who is all-knowing, was fully aware of their location. His question of "Where are you?" was not a question of location but rather a question that pointed toward the disconnection between God and man, which was a direct result of sin. If God was looking for an excuse to smite Adam and Eve, He never would have asked where they were.

God also showed His grace in that He provided clothing for them. A direct result of Adam and Eve disobeying God was that they realized their nakedness and felt shame. God, being fully aware of their shame, did not want them to continue in this state. Therefore, He killed an innocent animal to cover their guilt and shame.

God also removed Adam and Eve from the garden and protected the tree of life. God knew that if Adam and Eve were to eat of the tree of life, they would remain in their sinful state throughout eternity. He did not want this to happen and therefore removed them from the possible temptation.

But God took things one step further. He wanted to provide a way for people to leave behind their sinful state, repent, and return to a relationship with Him. This passage is the first time He hinted that He had a plan to do just that. In Genesis 3:15, God told Satan the consequences of his actions: one day, God would send a man descended from Adam and Eve who would defeat Satan. Scholars say this is the first time God promised to send Jesus. Jesus is the only perfect person to ever live. He never stepped outside God's boundaries because He is God's Son. God said that Jesus would come to defeat the power of Satan, sin, and death, and that He would restore the relationship between people and God. And God's words were true because that's exactly what Jesus did.

While the world may say that God is dictatorial and judging, the Bible says that He is a gracious Father who loves us even when we do not follow His ways. He has provided the way for us to be forgiven from our sin. We can praise God for this love and grace!

### **QUESTIONS FOR APPLICATION**

- The world says one thing about God and the Bible says something completely different. What can we learn about the character of God from these passages of Scripture? How do these passages change how you view God?
- Learning from the bad choices others make is always wise. What lessons can we learn from Adam and Eve? What actions can we change as a direct result of learning from them?