

# "Truth"

## John 16: 12-15

6/5/22

### Discussion Guide

#### Opening Reflection

The Holy Spirit and its impartation to every believer is unique to the Christian faith. No other religion makes that promise, that God will place His own Spirit inside each person who believes in Jesus so he/she participates in the divine nature and can hear God speaking to them and directing them by His Spirit.

How have you experienced the work of the Holy Spirit in your life?

*<sup>12</sup> "I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. <sup>13</sup> But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. <sup>14</sup> He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you. <sup>15</sup> All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you."*

1. Romans 1:16 says: "The righteous will live by faith." We also need truth to live by. Think of how important truth is for our lives and the detrimental effects of the lack of truth. Give examples.

Is truth being undermined in our culture? How do you know if something is true or not? Does this discussion highlight the importance of Jesus coming to share with us THE truth?

2. Human beings are amazing creatures. Think of the incredible things we have discovered, created, and figured out. Make a list of the most amazing accomplishments of humanity that still have you spellbound.

Why is it, as smart as we are, we were unable to discover who God is, how we are to live, and his plan of redemption? We are so smart when it comes to many areas of life but when it comes to spiritual matters we are left scratching our heads. Why is that?

3. Christianity is a revealed faith. What are the implications of that for faith and life?
4. Did you find God or did God find you? What's was your experience?
5. What does it mean to be a child of God? How hard is it to be His child? What are ways we can express to God that we are His children?
6. What teaching(s) of Jesus do you still find hard to understand? ..... Hard to accept? ... Hard to live out?
7. Have you ever been misunderstood? The person they described you as being was not the person you actually are? How did it make you feel? How did you bridge the gap between the two differing perceptions?

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8. Initially, how did you perceive God? What was He like? How did your view of God change? How do most people view God and how can we help bridge the gap between their perceptions and reality?
9. The Church, and even our culture, is split when it comes to truth. Is truth evolving? Is revelation progressive? Or is truth a set body of beliefs passed down to us by God through the prophets and ultimately through Jesus? Can you see these two views of truth being played out in our culture? Give examples.
10. Share an example of a conflict Christians have had over doctrinal issues. You can share a personal example or an historic example.  
  
How can we have rigorous and thoughtful doctrinal debates and still demonstrate the familial love we are to have for each other? Is there another way we can display unity other than through doctrinal agreement?
11. Are the existence of denominations and nondenominational churches a blemish or a blessing before the world?
12. What are the essential tenets of the faith for you? What must a person believe in order to be a Christian? (And no, I'm not referring to the ECO *Essential Tenets*) What doctrines do you believe are peripheral?
13. Give examples of ways we can add to or subtract from the scriptures.
14. In your mind, does having THE truth make a Christian intellectually lazy and blind when it comes to faith or does it make us more thoughtful and insightful?
15. List ways you have seen people misuse the Bible. What is the focus of Scripture?
16. How have you experienced the glory of God? By glory, the Bible means weight, importance, significance.
17. Final thoughts? If none, perhaps end by singing *Amazing Grace*.