

God Is Truth

Passages: As listed in the lesson.

Memory Verse

“If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself.” (2 Timothy 2:13)

Knowledge of God’s Will [God’s Word]	Knowledge of God [God’s Divine Nature]	Good Works [Behavior]
1. God’s truthfulness has many aspects. 2. God has promised His faithfulness.	God is truthful in His character, His words, and His promises.	1. Know the truth and grow in the truth. 2. Pray to be filled with love to cast out our fears.

Overview

Events and Spiritual Teachings

- A. God’s Character Is True
- B. God’s Word Is True
- C. God’s Promises Are True

Life Application

- 1. What Does God See in Our Hearts?
- 2. Take Courage in the Truth

Memory Verse

Conclusion: Truth is the very character of our God, and He will never change. As a result, His promises will never fail, and the will of God will be done, fully and completely in accordance with His truth. When we stand on the truth and make it the foundation of our lives, God will give us courage.

Spiritual Teachings

Introduction

Lying is common in everyday personal speech as well as in school, in business, on television and radio, and sometimes among friends and family members. People lie to get out of difficult circumstances, to pass the blame to someone else, to gain an advantage over another person, or to make friends and family feel good. How should we regard the matter of lying? To answer this question, we must examine the opposite of lies: truth. Only when we understand the basis of what truth is can we understand why people may lie.

(Teachers: Ask a student to hold up both of their hands, then loosely wrap a piece of yarn around their wrists and hold it securely. Then invite the student to break free. It should be relatively easy. Now, wrap the student's wrists about six more times, this time more tightly, while explaining that one lie often leads us to many more as we try to cover up previous lies. Once again, invite the student to break free. It should be more difficult now.)

As we have seen here, when we tell many lies, it is more difficult to free ourselves. The more we lie, the more difficult it becomes to tell the truth. To be free of lies, we must tell the truth, and when we tell the truth, God is pleased with us. But even though we as God's children may determine to tell only the truth, others often do not think the same.

Can you distinguish true statements from false ones? Many supposedly true statements are, in fact, lies, whether intentional or unintentional. Satan may attack or tempt us by using lies to deceive our minds and make us doubt the words of God. The only way to overcome this is by knowing the truth. But what is the truth? Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me" (Jn 14:6). Jesus equates Himself to the truth. Today, we are going to consider three aspects of the truth that God encompasses.

A. God's Character Is True

The primary purpose of lies is to deceive others. It is natural for humans to turn to deceit, and it is a commonplace occurrence, whether large or small. On the other hand, we learned in the previous lesson that God is holy because it is against His very nature to sin, and thus to lie. This is why God is true in His character – it is a part of His very nature. Hebrews 6:18 says, "[It] is impossible for God to lie." The God that we worship is a "God of truth and without injustice; righteous and upright is He" (Deut 32:4). Let's study some of the ways God's character is true:

1. God is the Creator and source of all truth

We also call Him true because He is the Creator of all things, and everything that we can see, touch, and feel, are built upon the truth that He created. Consider what we know of the laws of the universe, the way our bodies work, and the nature of the earth we live on. All of these exist because God declared and made them the way they are. Without God, the truth would not even exist.

2. God never changes

God's character is also true because He does not change (Mal 3:6): God is the only eternal and unchanging being in existence. He never changes and will never die. The world around us, however, is constantly changing, because all things on it eventually die. Society's outlook on sexual orientation, on race and diversity, on how to judge crimes, and even on moral standards,

differ from generation to generation. Only God and His truth are eternal, and they never change to meet human standards. He has always been, and will always be, holy and true (Jas 1:17).

3. The truth that leads to godliness

We can see the truth of God’s character in Jesus, who called Himself “the way, the truth, and the life” (Jn 14:6). The reason Jesus could bear our sins on the cross was because of His perfect holiness. When we pursue God, we are pursuing this same holiness. And to find it, we must understand the truth that God has given us within the Bible.

Paul called knowledge of God’s truth, “the truth that leads to godliness” (Tit 1:1 NIV). Peter wrote that we have “purified [our] souls in obeying the truth” (1 Pet 1:22), and when Jesus prayed for His disciples, He asked God to “[s]anctify them by Your truth” (Jn 17:17). While human organizations, philosophies, and traditions are constantly changing, God’s truth will never change and lasts forever. The truth that we can find in Jesus Christ is a solid foundation that will lead us to godliness, and from godliness to salvation.

B. God’s Word Is True

Psalm 33:4 says that “the word of the LORD is right.” God is truth, so by extension, we know that His words are also true (Ps 119:160). Jesus once said, “Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away” (Mt 24:35). Therefore, “the word of our God stands forever” (Isa 40:8). So, not only was God’s word true in the past, but it will also continue to be true in the future. But how do we know that the Bible contains God’s words?

1. A single author

Over a span of 1,500 years, forty different writers recorded the words of God, which eventually became the Bible we know today. Some of these writers were well educated; others were not. Yet all of them told the same story. This is because the Bible had only one author: God Himself. The Bible’s very existence is evidence of God’s authorship: Despite the length of time over which it was written, the Bible communicates a unified message that applies to all people, places, and times.

2. Prophecies

Fulfilled prophecies are evidence that the Bible contains God’s words and is therefore true. Let’s review some of the prophecies regarding Jesus Christ.

Old Testament Prophecy	New Testament Fulfillment
Christ to be born in Bethlehem (Mic 5:2)	Herod asked the chief priests and scribes where Christ had been born. They answered, “In Bethlehem.” (Mt 2:4–6)
Christ to enter Jerusalem riding on a donkey (Zech 9:9)	Christ enters Jerusalem riding on a donkey (Mt 21:4–11)
Christ to be betrayed by a friend (Ps 41:9)	Judas betrayed Jesus (Lk 22:21, 48)
Christ to be betrayed for thirty pieces of silver (Zech 11:12)	Judas sold Jesus for thirty pieces of silver (Mt 26:14–15)

Thirty pieces of silver cast down and used to buy a potter's field (Zech 11:13)	Thirty pieces of silver used to buy a potter's field (Mt 27:3–10)
Although innocent, Christ will remain silent when in trial (Isa 53:7)	Jesus kept silent when questioned (Mk 14:60–61)
Christ crucified (Ps 22:16)	Jesus was crucified (Jn 19:17–18)

There are many more occasions where prophecies recorded within the Bible were fulfilled, whether immediately or after hundreds of years. Knowing this, we can be sure that the prophecies concerning the end times will also come to pass.

C. God's Promises Are True

Since God's word is true, His promises are equally true, including the covenant of salvation that He has offered us. Hebrews 6:18 says that "it is impossible for God to lie," so we can have a "strong consolation" in the hope of salvation that He has given us. He is always faithful to His promises, no matter how incredible they may seem. This is only possible because of His omnipotence.

As humans, no matter how much we want to help and protect those we care about, we can only promise so much. Even our family cannot guarantee our safety, because so many things are out of our control. What can you do about a hurricane, or a car accident? What can you do when faced with financial difficulties or health problems? God, on the other hand, can easily provide for all of our needs and take care of us no matter what we encounter. His promises have greater meaning and truth because of His power.

What are some seemingly impossible promises that God made to His followers in the Bible?

- God promised Abraham that he would have a son by his wife Sarah (Gen 12:4; 15:4; 17:15–29; 21:1–2);
- God promised Simeon that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ (Lk 2:26);
- Before His ascension, Jesus told His apostles to wait in Jerusalem until they received the "Promise of the Father" (Acts 1:4–5). On the Day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit poured out upon the apostles (Acts 2:2–4).

Now, what are some promises God has made to us? Try to think of a promise that you have seen fulfilled in your life, or that has encouraged you in the past. *(Teachers: Before class, compile a list of promises in the Bible. Suggestions: Mt 6:33; Ps 50:15; Ps 103:8–9. Invite students to choose one to share about (i.e., how it encourages them). As an alternative sharing idea, ask the students to share promises of God that have helped them.)*

In view of the promises made and fulfilled by God, it is clear that God will always honor His promises. If God could lie, He would be like Satan, the father of lies (Jn 8:44). He would also be just like humankind who lie, misrepresent, or distort the truth. But "God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?" (Num 23:19). Paul also wrote, "If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself" (2 Tim 2:13).

If His promises are true, then God's covenants, by extension, are also true. When God makes a

covenant, He will fulfill it (2 Cor 1:20), because the almighty God not only tells the truth—He is the truth. Although He is sovereign and almighty, He has committed Himself to His people in an “everlasting covenant” (Gen 9:16; 17:7; 1 Chr 16:17).

What kind of covenants did God make in the Old Testament?

- God made a covenant with Noah to never destroy the earth again through a flood (Gen 9:11–13).
- God made a covenant with Abraham that:
 - he would be a father of many nations (Gen 17:5–7);
 - his nation will be led into the promised land (Gen 12:1);
 - he will be made into a great nation (Gen 12:2); and that
 - through him, all the people of the earth will be blessed (Gen 12:3).
- God made a covenant with David that He will bring His people back into a relationship with Him. God told David that his descendants, his royal house, and his kingdom “shall be established forever” (2 Sam 7:16). This covenant was fulfilled in Jesus, a descendant of the line of David (Mt 1:1; Lk 1:30–33).
- God made a covenant with Moses. It was a covenant between God and His people, the Israelites. God told Moses that if Israel obeys, they “shall be a special treasure to [Him, and] a kingdom of priests and a holy nation” (Ex 19:5–6).

All these covenants share a central theme: “You shall be My people, and I will be your God” (Jer 30:22). As long as we are willing to be His people and obey His commands, He commits Himself forever to being our God. Knowing this, we can be assured of the truth of His words and of His promises, because we know that not only is it impossible for God to lie, but He also has the power to make His promises become reality. “Therefore know that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments” (Deut 7:9).

Check for Understanding

1. **What are the three reasons God’s character is true?** God is the Creator and source of all truth; God never changes; His truth leads to godliness.
2. **List two prophecies that came true in the New Testament.** Refer to *Spiritual Teachings, Section B*.
3. **Our God is a God of promise. List at least two examples from the Bible.** Refer to *Spiritual Teachings, Section C*.
4. **Who is the father of all lies?** Satan (Jn 8:44).
5. **What covenant did God make with Moses?** God told Moses that if the Israelites obey, they “shall be a special treasure to [Him, and] a kingdom of priests and a holy nation” (Ex 19:5–6).
6. **What covenant did God make with David?** God promised that He will bring His people back into a relationship with Him. He told David that his descendants and his royal house and his kingdom “shall be established forever” (2 Sam 7:16).

Life Application

1. What Does God See in Our Hearts?

God looks into our hearts, so we must constantly examine ourselves and ask questions that challenge our conscience about deception. “I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, even to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his doings” (Jer 17:10). In other words, God searches our hearts and gives to us according to what we have done. What does God see in our hearts? Does He see

honesty and integrity? Does He see lying and deception? Does He see a heart that follows the truth of the Bible in all of our decisions? We live in a world where knowing the truth can be confusing, and where it is often difficult to discern right from wrong.

The world around us has its own standards for what is right. It is wrong to lie, but white lies are okay, for example, and it is wrong to steal, but taking extra freebies from a shop offering one per customer is okay. We must live by the truth of the Bible, not by the malleable and changeable truth of the world. Let's take a look at a few examples that we may encounter in our daily lives, and then review how we should act according to the truth of the Bible.

(Teachers: Review the following questions with the students. Ask them to think deeply about their answers and invite volunteers to share. Afterwards, share the verses about the truth found in the Bible. Your students' responses should help you gain better insight into your students' understanding of biblical teachings.)

- Do you always return the money when a cashier mistakenly gives you extra change?
God's teaching: Do not steal. (Ex 20:15)
- Are you willing to confess your lies honestly to your family and your friends?
God's teaching: I should be honest at all times. I should not lie. (Prov 26:28)
- Do you believe that it is okay to talk behind a person's back?
God's teaching: Do not gossip. (Prov 20:19)
- Do you believe that it is okay to cheat on your homework?
God's teaching: Do not bear false witness. (Ex 20:16)
- Do you think that it is okay to own many material possessions while not sharing with the poor who have none?
God's teaching: Be generous to the poor. (Prov 19:17)
- Do you think that it is okay to listen to secular music that affects your spirituality negatively?
God's teaching: Build ourselves up on the most holy faith. (Jude 1:20)
- Do you think that same-sex marriage is okay?
God's teaching: God detests same-sex marriage. (Rom 1:27)
- Do you think that intimacy with the opposite sex is okay as long as you do not "go all the way"?
God's teaching: The marriage bed should be kept undefiled (Heb 13:4). But among the saints there must not be any hint of sexual immorality (Eph 5:3).

The more time we spend with God's word, the more we will form convictions that guide us in every decision we make and with every step we take. We become more like Jesus as we spend time with Him. The only way to know God is by experiencing His sanctifying work in our life. So, we must allow the word of God and the Holy Spirit to transform us moment by moment, day by day.

2. Take Courage in the Truth

We all want to be liked and admired by our friends and our peers. We desire to be fully accepted by the people who surround us daily. In the New Testament, many people were afraid of openly seeking or even mentioning Jesus Christ for fear of the Jews (Jn 7:13). A "ruler of the Jews" named Nicodemus chose to go to Jesus by night, possibly fearing persecution from others if he went during the day (Jn 3:1–2). Even one of Jesus Christ's disciples denied Him publicly three times (Jn 18:15–17, 25–27). No one wants to be humiliated or persecuted.

The Bible clearly tells us: “We ought to obey God rather than men” (Acts 5:29). If we fear Him greatly, then we really need to stand up for the truth courageously. But we must do so with the power of the Holy Spirit. Peter once denied Jesus three times, but on the Day of Pentecost, he was filled by the Holy Spirit! He preached with boldness, with courage, and without fear. Peter became an apostle who defended and lived out the truth without any fear of the consequences. But how do we develop such courage?

Replace Fear with Love for His Truth

2 Timothy 1:7 says, “For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.” When we pray daily and yield to the Holy Spirit, we no longer fear, but instead are filled with love for God and His truth. 1 John 4:18 says, “There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.” If we have perfected God’s love in us, then our fears will vanish. So, by understanding God’s love and filling ourselves with that same love, we can learn to speak and act out the truth with courage.

Memory Verse

“If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself.” (2 Timothy 2:13)

Meaning

1. To be “faithless” can mean to question or betray a trust, or to be unfaithful. As humans, we are susceptible to falling out of the truth, or to succumbing to lies. However, God’s nature is faithful and true, so even if we betray His trust or lose faith in Him, He will still be true.
2. In times when we may turn away from God, we can be assured that when we do return to God and face Him, He will be there to receive us.
3. God cannot deny Himself because He is holy; as a holy God, it is impossible for Him to lie. He has promised His faithfulness, so He will always be faithful to us.

Conclusion

Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me” (Jn 14:6). Truth is the very character of our God, and He will never change. As a result, His promises will never fail, for the “LORD is trustworthy in all [He] promises and faithful in all [He] does” (Ps 145:13 NIV). The time is going to come when the kingdom of God will come, and the will of God will be done, fully and completely in accordance with His truth. When we stand on the truth and make it the foundation of our lives, God will give us courage.

Lesson 5 Homework Assignment Answer Key

1. What does it mean that God cannot deny Himself?
It is in God's nature to be faithful and true. It is impossible for Him to lie.
2. What are three ways God is true in His character?
God is the Creator and source of all truth; God never changes; His truth leads to godliness.
3. Pick one of the above ways God's character is true, and briefly explain in your own words.
*God is the Creator and source of all truth – Without God, the truth would not even exist.
God never changes – He is the only eternal and unchanging being in existence.
His truth leads to godliness – The truth that we find in Jesus Christ is a solid foundation that will lead us to godliness, and from godliness to salvation.*
4. How do we know the Bible contains God's words?
It has a single author, and many prophecies recorded within have been fulfilled.
5. How can we be assured of the truth in God's promises?
Because we know that not only is it impossible for God to lie, but He also has the power to make His promises become reality.
6. Do you courageously speak and live out the truth? Describe a moment when you did or did not.
Personal answers.