

DEVOTIONAL

Hollywood Prayer Network

TRUTH

Truth is a controversial issue in today's divided world. What is truth? How do we stand firm in truth and yet not judge or offend other people? This week we're focusing on God's Absolute Truth and how you can incorporate it into your everyday life. Only His Truth will set you free!

DAY 1

CALL ON GOD IN TRUTH

"I FEEL SAFE EVEN IN THE MIDST OF MY
ENEMIES; FOR THE TRUTH IS POWERFUL
AND WILL PREVAIL."

-SOJOURNER TRUTH

New International Version

Psalms 25:5

Guide me in your truth and teach me, for
you are God my Savior, and my hope is in
you all day long.

Psalms 145:18

The Lord is near to all who call on him, to
all who call on him in truth.

DAY 1

PRAY: Dear Lord, I thank You for these Psalms and the reminders that You are guiding me in truth and teaching me Your truths. Thank you, Lord, that You are near to me because I call on You in truth. Help me to be committed to always seeking Truth and living by it my whole life. My hope is in You all day long and I am so thankful that Your Holy Spirit helps me to discern Your truth from lies and from the world's variations on Your absolute truth. Amen.

REFLECT: Truth is a controversial word in our culture. The dictionary definition of truth is "the body of real things, events, and facts." But how we each define "real" or "facts" has become blurry and varied. As Christians, we must focus on Absolute Truth, which is defined as "a quality of truth that cannot be exceeded; complete truth; unvarying and permanent truth." As we spend this week on truth, we are focusing on God's Absolute Truth. The Lord will guide us in His truth. He is near to all of us who call on Him in truth. Everything we read in the Scriptures is God's absolute truth. Let that fact sink into your heart and soul.

DAY 1

ACT: Are you clear about what God's Absolute Truth is? Do you believe that everything you read in the Bible is true, even if you don't fully understand it? Are you confident that God's scriptures hold absolute truth? As a Christian, are you confident in embracing God's truth to define your life, what you stand for and are willing to die for? These questions force you to go deep into your heart and soul to answer. Start your week in prayer, asking God to reveal His truth to you and show you what truths you may be struggling with, questioning, or avoiding. Maybe even get on your knees right now and ask God to reveal His truth to you.

DAY 2

TRUTH THROUGH JESUS SETS YOU FREE

"GOD'S TRUTH JUDGES CREATED THINGS
OUT OF LOVE, AND SATAN'S TRUTH JUDGES
THEM OUT OF ENVY AND HATRED."

-DIETRICH BONHOEFFER

New International Version

John 1:17

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

John 8:31-32

To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus
said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are
really my disciples. Then you will know the
truth, and the truth will set you free.

DAY 2

PRAY: Dear God, I thank You that You sent Jesus to give us grace and truth. I ask that You help me to know the truth so that it will set me free. I don't want to live by just the law. I want to be like Jesus and live a life of both truth and grace. I want to use Your truth to set the captives free by lovingly speaking truth. God, I know that Moses gave us the law, but Jesus gave us Your truth and that truth will set me free as one of Your disciples. Thank You for giving me exactly what I need. I praise You, in Jesus' name! Amen.

REFLECT: Have you thought about how to simply define the Old and New Testaments with two concepts: Moses and the law and Jesus and truth and grace? How beautiful it is to understand that Jesus told us that if we hold on to His teachings of truth and grace, and allow ourselves to be transformed by them, that we will be His disciples. We can and should learn the Law that Moses gave us, but when we know Jesus' truth, that will set us free. Reflect on the power of Jesus' words. If you hold on to His teaching, you are not only His disciple, but you are free!

DAY 2

ACT: On a piece of paper write down a list of ways you are free because you know God's truths. How are you free in work? In relationships? In your actions and in your words? Are you free to go against the expectations of culture or peer pressure? Are you free to be confident in your beliefs and worldview, even though it goes against society's beliefs? Look at your list and praise God for the freedom in following His truths, with grace!

DAY 3

JESUS IS THE TRUTH

"TRUTH LIES IN CHARACTER. CHRIST DID NOT SIMPLY SPEAK THE TRUTH; HE WAS TRUTH; TRUTH, THROUGH AND THROUGH; FOR TRUTH IS A THING NOT OF WORDS, BUT OF LIFE AND BEING."

-FREDERICK W. ROBERTSON

New International Version

John 14:6

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

DAY 3

PRAY: Dear Jesus, I praise You for this promise. These verses are the foundation of my faith and they are so full of love. You are indeed the way to hope, joy, love, and salvation. You are the representation of absolute truth and You are not only the source of all life, but You gave me my life. Thank You that I have access to the creator God through You and that You are the way and the truth and the source of all life. Amen.

REFLECT: Most of us know John 14:6 and yet have you ever really thought about each word? Jesus is the way. That means He gives us a path to follow that will bring us right where we need to go in life. He is the truth, which means everything He says is true and can be trusted, studied, understood, and embraced. He is the life, which means He is the source of everything we need and are; He gives us breath, strength, and purpose. We can't get to God without Jesus. That is His word of truth. Without Jesus we are nothing, we wouldn't exist, we wouldn't have life, purpose, meaning, or access to God. That is profound.

DAY 3

ACT: Right now, not only memorize this famous verse, but also memorize all that it actually means. Think through what it means when He says He is the way we should follow, that He is the truth of all that we should believe, say, and do, and that He is the source of life itself. Then think through the fact that you can't even get to God without Jesus. Do you recognize your need for Him? We are nothing without Him. Are you living your life based on these truths? What do you need to do to truly live out this short yet profound verse?

DAY 4

THE HOLY SPIRIT GUIDES YOU TO TRUTH

"THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL ALWAYS POINT
PEOPLE TO THE FINISH WORK OF JESUS."
-JOHN PAUL WARREN

New International Version

John 16:13

But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes,
he will guide you into all 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.

DAY 4

PRAY: Oh, Holy Spirit. You are just as much a part of God as the Father and Jesus. Thank You that You are guiding me into all truth. I know that You speak to me only what You hear from the Father and yet, because You are in me, I am full of truth. Holy Spirit, tell me where I should go now and what I am to do next. You are my guide and You know what is yet to come. I need You and I thank You that You are always telling me the truth. I worship God through You and in truth. Amen.

REFLECT: These verses are a great description of the Trinity and especially helpful in understanding the role of the Holy Spirit. God is Spirit and He has given us a part of Himself, the Holy Spirit, so that He can guide us into truth and tell us only what God wants us to hear. In fact, the Holy Spirit in us is so powerful that He can even tell us what is yet to come. Have you thought about this amazing truth that the Holy Spirit is alive and living inside of you right now? If we could fully understand that truth, then we would all live different lives. We wouldn't be afraid, concerned, jealous, lonely, or selfish. Would we treat others differently, change the way we spend our time or our money? How would you be different if you utterly understood that the Holy Spirit is alive and well in your soul?

DAY 4

ACT: Commit in prayer to fully understand that the Holy Spirit is inside of you. Ask Him to reveal Himself to you, to guide you, and even to show you something that is yet to come. Then write down three ways in which you want to change as you fully embrace the power of the Holy Spirit living within you. What new truths will you believe? What actions and priorities will change? Keep your notes and in the days ahead, read them again to see how the Holy Spirit has changed you by the reality of His presence within you.

DAY 5

STAND FIRM IN THE TRUTH

"THE TRUTH." DUMBLEDORE SIGHED. "IT IS A BEAUTIFUL AND TERRIBLE THING, AND SHOULD THEREFORE BE TREATED WITH GREAT CAUTION."

-J.K. ROWLING, *HARRY POTTER AND THE SORCERER'S STONE*

New International Version

Ephesians 6:14

Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place

DAY 5

PRAY: Lord, thank You for the reminder that You want me to stand firm in any situation, with truth and righteousness. Help me to buckle the belt of truth around my waist and to put the breastplate of righteousness in place, regardless of what the people around me, or society, thinks. Even if everyone around me turns from truth, help me to stand firm in all situations, to endure hardship, and embrace Your truth. With You, Lord, all things are possible! Amen.

REFLECT: We are bombarded with messages every day that don't line up with God's word. In America most of it comes from Washington DC or Hollywood. We are told untruths in the news, in advertising, in public speeches, as well as in films, TV shows, and music. However, we also have great examples of God's truth in some leaders, and in many books, songs, films and TV shows. We have to stand with people who love God and His principles. Do you pray for public leaders, culture-shapers and celebrities who lead our nation to stand firm in Truth? How do you discern God's truth from every source of information coming at you? Stand firm!

DAY 5

ACT: Today is the day to begin asking God for wisdom, so you can discern His truth in all circumstances and stand firm in truth. Don't get angry at the people in Hollywood with whom you don't agree. Don't hate or talk against our leaders whom you believe are lying to you. Instead pray God's blessings on them and for Him to give you discernment to understand both what the truth is, and how to respond with grace and love. Commit to start every day asking the Lord for wisdom, righteousness and truth, and He will reveal it. Stand firm in all situations, even endure hardship, to speak God's truth in love. And pray for our leaders and celebrities who have not yet found God's truths. Today, you can start making an eternal difference.

DAY 6

PEOPLE WHO OPPOSE THE TRUTH

"THE VERY CONCEPT OF OBJECTIVE TRUTH IS FADING OUT OF THE WORLD. LIES WILL PASS INTO HISTORY... IN A TIME OF DECEIT TELLING THE TRUTH IS A REVOLUTIONARY ACT."

-GEORGE ORWELL

New International Version

Galatians 4:16

Have I now become your enemy by telling you the truth?

John 17:17

Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.

DAY 6

PRAY: Dear God, I want to be truthful to my friends, but sometimes when I speak God's truth it makes them angry. Please help me speak truth with love and grace, and to be sensitive to the right situation where You will be glorified and they will be blessed. I need You to guide me and give me the words and the wisdom to choose when the truth will sanctify someone else. Help me also to accept words of truth from my friends, so that I can learn, and grow with them, and not get defensive, angry, or hurt. Oh, I need You every moment! Amen.

REFLECT: Have you ever hurt a friend by speaking truth to them? Has anyone hurt you or made you angry because they were speaking truth to you? It's hard to hear truth. But God gives it to us in three ways: Through Scripture, through the nudge of the Holy Spirit, and through other people. We want to be sanctified as believers, set apart to do God's work, and we want the people we love to walk in His truth. But sometimes it hurts to face a truth that reveals our weaknesses, sin, or ignorance. Can you offer truth to others, in love, and can you accept truth that others offer to you? It is a huge step in maturity to walk in God's truth.

DAY 6

ACT: Sit quietly and ask the Lord to reveal to you if you have any enemies – either because you have pushed them away, or they have pushed you away. Was it because of truths or lies that were spoken? Be vulnerable and ask the Lord what to do about each person. Do you ask for or extend forgiveness, or open up about your hurt, anger, or pain? Choose what you need to do regarding anyone you have hurt, or who has hurt you, when speaking the truth. Maybe you spoke without grace or love. Maybe it was the wrong time, or words were spoken with anger. Whatever happened, ask the Lord to reveal your next step, so that you can walk in truth and have no enemies in the process.

DAY 7

YOU HAVE GOD'S ANOINTING, SO PRAY

"YES, IF TRUTH IS NOT UNDERGIRD BY LOVE, IT MAKES THE POSSESSOR OF THAT TRUTH OBNOXIOUS AND THE TRUTH REPULSIVE."

-RAVI ZACHARIAS

New International Version

1 Timothy 2:1-4

I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone – for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.

1 John 2:20

But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth.

DAY 7

PRAY: Oh Lord, I want to end my week embracing the anointing and the truth that You have given me. I just need to live it out every moment of every day. Help me to intercede for all people – for kings and those in authority, for friends and family, and even for neighbors and strangers. I want to have Your heart that desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. I praise You and embrace all that You have for me. Amen.

REFLECT: Have you thought about having an anointing from God? Have you fully embraced the fact that God has given you His truth? How do we live out God's truth in our lives? God wants us to pray for others and thank Him for them, along with interceding for leaders, friends, family members, and strangers. We need to be quiet and pray, so that God can use us in His plan to bring all people to Him. Prayer is the key to living a Christ-like life and to understand all of God's truths that He has already given us. Prayer is what will impact the lives of the people around us. How is your prayer life?

DAY 7

ACT: End this week by sitting quietly now for 10 minutes and listen to God. Hear what truths He wants to reveal to you, what people He wants you to pray for, to serve, and to love. Be quiet and ask Him to envelope you in His peace and holiness. He wants you to come to a knowledge of the truth as you sit perfectly still. Try to spend 10 minutes every day listening, to God. He has anointed you with the truth already, so let Him reveal it to you. This time in God's presence can change your life. It is an exciting adventure!