

June 14 – THE Word's Precedence Over All Words

Today's Reading

- John Chapter 1

Preparing for Next Week: June 28th Assigned Reading, **NO MEETING JUNE 21st**

- The 40-Day Word Fast: Chapter 2 – *Render Not Judgment*
- Ephesians Chapter 4

Opening Prayer

Ask God to help us understand the authority of His Word and teach us to align our words with His truth.

Opening Question

Why is the Bible considered the Word of Truth?

Allow participants to discuss their initial thoughts before turning to Scripture.

Key Theme

Words of Truth

Words of truth give direction, instruction, correction, wisdom, and life. Their purpose is to build up, guide, and restore rather than condemn or destroy.

Main Idea:

God's truth must take precedence over our opinions, feelings, assumptions, and the messages we receive from the world.

Scripture Focus

John 14:6

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

Discussion

- What does Jesus mean when He says He is "the truth"?
 - How is truth different from opinion?
 - Why is truth connected to both "the way" and "the life"?
 - How should this affect the words we speak?
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Exploring Truth in Scripture

Activity

Look up verses containing the word "truth."

Suggested passages:

- John 8:31-32
- John 17:17
- Psalm 119:160
- Ephesians 4:15
- Proverbs 12:19
- 2 Timothy 2:15

Discussion

- How do these verses define truth?
 - What characteristics of truth appear repeatedly?
 - How do these verses support the idea that God's Word is the ultimate source of truth?
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Book Study: John Chapter 1

The Word Before All Things

Read John 1:1-2

"In the beginning was the Word..."

Discussion

- What does "The Word" mean in v.1?
 - Why does John begin his Gospel with language similar to Genesis 1?
 - What does this tell us about Jesus?
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The Word and Creation

Read John 1:3

"Through him all things were made..."

Discussion

- Who is being referred to by "him" in v.3?
- Why is this important to the creation story in Genesis 1?
- How does this deepen our understanding of God's spoken creation?

Leader Note: The same Word that created the world in Genesis is revealed as Jesus in John 1.

Life in the Word

Read John 1:4

"In him was life..."

Discussion

- What does John mean by "In him was life"? (v.4)
 - How does this help explain why creation came through God's spoken word rather than physical effort?
 - What connection do you see between God's Word and life itself?
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The Word as Light

Read John 1:4-9

Discussion

- What is the significance of light throughout Scripture? (v.4-9)
- Why is Jesus called the "true light"? (v.9)
- How does this positive picture of words challenge how words are often used today?

Additional Scriptures on Light

- Genesis 1:3
- Psalm 119:105
- Matthew 5:14-16
- John 8:12
- Ephesians 5:8
- 1 John 1:5

Discussion

- What do these passages teach us about light?
- How do the words we speak reveal whether we are walking in light or darkness?
- Can people recognize Christ through our speech?

The Word Became Flesh

Read John 1:14

"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us."

Discussion

- How is the Word described in v.14?
- What was the Word full of?
- Why is it significant that grace and truth are mentioned together?
- What happens when truth is spoken without grace?
- What happens when grace is offered without truth?

The Testimony of John the Baptist

Read John 1:15

Discussion

- What was the significance of John the Baptist's testimony? (v.15)
- Why was his message important?
- What responsibility comes with speaking the truth about God?

Leader Note: John's words pointed people toward Christ rather than toward himself.

The Danger of False Testimony

Discussion

- What is the danger of false testimony?
- Why does Scripture take bearing false witness so seriously?

- What damage can false words cause to individuals, relationships, and communities?

Supporting Scriptures

- Exodus 20:16
- Proverbs 6:16-19
- Colossians 3:9
- Ephesians 4:25

Discussion

- What are the consequences of bearing false witness?
 - How can Christians guard against spreading misinformation, gossip, or assumptions?
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Connecting the Themes

Read John 14:6 and John 1

Discussion

Jesus is described as:

- The Word
- The Truth
- The Light
- The Life

How do these descriptions connect to one another?

- Why is truth connected to light?
 - Why is light connected to life?
 - Why is Jesus called all four?
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God's Word Accomplishes Its Purpose

Read Isaiah 55:11

"So is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty..."

Discussion

- What does this verse teach us about the power of God's Word?
- How is God's Word different from human words?
- How should this influence the way we read Scripture?
- How can we align our words with God's purposes?

Leader Note: Human words may fail, but God's Word always accomplishes what He intends.

Personal Reflection

Reflection Questions

- What voices most influence your thinking?
- Are there lies that you have believed about yourself?
- What truths from God's Word challenge those lies?
- Do your words more often reflect truth or opinion?
- How can you become more intentional about speaking truth in love?

Activity

Write down:

1. A lie you have believed.
 2. A Scripture that speaks God's truth over that lie.
 3. One truth-filled statement you will intentionally speak this week.
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Weekly Challenge

This week, before speaking:

Ask yourself:

- Is it true?

- Is it aligned with God's Word?
- Is it helpful?
- Is it gracious?
- Does it point people toward Christ?

Intentionally replace one negative statement each day with a truth from Scripture.

Closing Prayer

Pray that God would:

- Fill us with His truth.
- Help us recognize lies and deception.
- Align our words with His Word.
- Make our speech a reflection of Christ, who is the Word, the Truth, the Light, and the Life