

DAY 1: TRUTH COMES FROM GOD



BIBLE STORY:

Satan Tricked Adam and Eve (Genesis 2–3)

SOME PEOPLE SAY:

Truth can be different for different people.

TODAY'S POINT:

Truth comes from God.

GOD SAYS:

Truth comes from Me.

BIBLE 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)*

LEADER DEVOTION

You probably know the story. God gave Adam and Eve a wonder-filled creation to live in and gave them one rule regarding what they should eat. They were not to eat the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. But Satan tempted and tricked Adam and Eve into questioning what God said. They disobeyed God's perfect instructions, bringing sin into the world.

It seems straightforward. And yet there's something that bothered me from the time I was a kid. God said, "On the day you eat from it, you will certainly die" (Genesis 2:17). So why didn't Adam and Eve die that day? In fact, Adam lived 930 years! (See Genesis 5:5.) Why? Did God really say ... ?

That question unlocks a treasury of truth your kids need to hear. Yes, God did really say that Adam and Eve would die, and He meant it. It just turns out we don't always recognize death when we see it. Adam and Eve died another kind of death that day: spiritual death. And they passed it on to the rest of humanity.

PAUSE TO REFLECT: Read the following Scriptures. Underline the words *dead/death*. Circle the names of the people who are dead or alive in the passages.

"And you were dead in your trespasses and sins." *Ephesians 2:1*

"Truly I tell you, anyone who hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not come under judgment but has passed from death to life." *John 5:24*

"What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?" *Romans 7:24*

The New Testament repeatedly describes the spiritual death that Adam and Eve died that day, just as God said. And what's more, we are each born into that death.



PAUSE TO REFLECT: Can a dead person make himself alive again?

We can't resurrect ourselves, but the glorious truth is we are not trapped in spiritual death. And God promised this truth back in Genesis! In Genesis 3:15, before God even told Adam and Eve the consequences for their sin, He told the serpent, "I will put hostility between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring. He will strike your head, and you will strike his heel." Bible scholars agree that this was the first record of God promising to send Jesus. Wrapped up in the horrible consequences of sin is the promise of how God would one day fix everything.

Death cannot hold us captive if God sets us free. And Jesus came, just as God promised, to bring that freedom.

PAUSE TO REFLECT: Has Jesus freed you from sin and ended your spiritual death? When did He do that? What can you share with kids about that experience as you teach this week?

Scripture says that, in the beginning, God wrote truth into the fabric of the universe He created. (See Romans 1:20.) Satan convinced Adam and Eve to question if God's truth really applied to them.

But God proved His words about the consequences of sin were true. And, much later, God proved that His words about Jesus were true. From this we can learn that truth comes from God. All His words are true. And only He can heal us from the consequences of believing anything else.

Make sure kids know that God didn't lie to Adam and Eve and He won't lie to them.

"The entirety of your word is truth, each of your righteous judgments endures forever."
Psalm 119:160

PAUSE TO REFLECT: Does God's truth apply to you? Is there any area in your life where you may treat truth like it's different for different people?

BONUS VERSE

The entirety of your word is truth, each of your righteous judgments endures forever.
Psalm 119:160

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

**LEADER PACK ITEMS
USED TODAY: 1 and 6-15**

NOTES

DAY 2: GOD'S PLAN IS BEST



BIBLE STORY:

Daniel Chose God's Way (Daniel 1)

SOME PEOPLE SAY:

Do what makes you happy.

TODAY'S POINT:

God's plan is best.

GOD SAYS:

My plan for you is even better.

BIBLE 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)*

LEADER DEVOTION

Daniel. What words come to mind when you hear that name? Good food? Dreams? Lions? I imagine those might be among the words kids would shout out when asked that question. But there's so much more. As a teacher, wouldn't you love to hear boys and girls shout out words like brave, obedient, and faithful?

From the beginning of his book, Daniel declares his confidence in the sovereignty of God. Daniel acknowledges that God, Himself, handed Jerusalem over to King Nebuchadnezzar and therefore allowed Daniel and his friends to be captured. It is estimated that Daniel and his friends were around 15 years old when they were taken captive. Yet even at this young age, Daniel was unwavering in his obedience and faithfulness to God.

PAUSE TO REFLECT: In what ways has God been faithful to you? In what ways have you been faithful to God?

The king wanted Daniel and the other captives to learn the Chaldean language, the literature, and the wisdom of his wisest men. He commanded them to eat the royal food and to drink his wine. He changed their names from those that honored God to names that instead honored the gods of Babylon. He wanted to indoctrinate them. He wanted them to forget who they were and become what he wanted them to be.

Sound familiar? The world today is trying to do the same to us and to our children, but not by marching in and taking us captive. No, the enemy is taking a more subtle approach now. His lies are so enticing: "Follow your heart." "You be you." "You believe what you want—I'll believe what I want." "There is no right or wrong." "Personal happiness is all that is important." Instead of falling for these lies, listen to God. Follow His heart. Be who He designed you to be. Believe His truth. His plan is always best for us.

PAUSE TO REFLECT: How has following God’s plan brought you true happiness?

Because Satan’s lies are so enticing, we may be tempted to listen to and embrace them. Daniel was ready to stand firm against temptation. As a descendant of Judah, he likely was taught from an early age to honor God and His commands. Daniel was reminded again and again about the faithfulness of God. Because of knowing and believing God’s truth, Daniel was able to be steadfast in the small things—like choosing to obey God even in what he ate. His unwavering faith grew so that ultimately, he could stand strong even in the face of death. Like Daniel, are we ready and equipped to stand firm against today’s cultural lies?

The good news is that God is *STILL* faithful. He provided His Word—His truth—to guide us through these shifting sands and swirling tides. Time after time, we read about God’s faithfulness in helping His people. As we read in Scripture about God’s faithfulness in helping His people, we can know that, indeed, His truth never changes. He will deliver us just as He has always delivered His people.

PAUSE TO REFLECT: Faithful. Steadfast. Constant. Enduring. Tried. True. Unchanging. Unwavering. Words that describe God. Words that describe Daniel. Do they describe you?

NOTES

BONUS VERSE

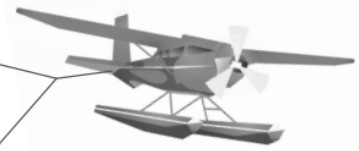
Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding; in all your ways know him, and he will make your paths straight. *Proverbs 3:5-6*

Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. *Proverbs 3:5-6 (KJV)*

LEADER PACK ITEMS USED TODAY:

2, 6–7, 9–11, and 16–17

DAY 3: EVERYONE NEEDS JESUS



BIBLE STORY:

The Rich Young Ruler (Mark 10:17-27)

SOME PEOPLE SAY:

Being a good person gets you into heaven.

TODAY'S POINT:

Everyone needs Jesus.

GOD SAYS:

Everyone sins and needs a Savior.

BIBLE 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)*

LEADER DEVOTION

As a kid, I was always intrigued with the story of The Rich Young Ruler. Looking back, I was hung up on the thought of fitting a camel through the eye of a needle. In elementary school I was on a problem-solving team that competed internationally to solve potential future problems. I had the mindset that where there's a will, there's a way. Surely we could put our heads together and find a way to get that camel Jesus was talking about to go through the eye of a needle. I was completely missing, yet completely proving, what Jesus was explaining.

Fast forward to my early twenties. I was crossing the Niger River on a ferry headed to my West African home on the edge of the Sahara Desert. An entire caravan of about 50 camels boarded the ferry with us. After that hour-long ferry ride, this Bible story clicked. I knew getting any one of those camels through the eye of a real needle would be 100% impossible—no matter how great my problem-solving skills were.

It's not uncommon for people to believe being a good person gets you into heaven. In fact, that was my basic belief as a kid before I understood sin and Jesus' sacrifice. If someone has lived a life of being kind to his neighbors, giving money to charities, and being the model parent, doesn't he deserve the gift of spending eternity in heaven? Jesus debunked this belief in His discussion with the rich young ruler. Just as the conversation was getting started, Jesus proclaimed that no one is good except God alone. The conversation of being good could really stop right here. Being good doesn't get a person into heaven because, well, no one is good. Even that generous, patient, volunteering parent has sin in his life, preventing him from entering the kingdom of God.

PAUSE TO REFLECT: Do you believe being a good person gets you into heaven? What did Jesus say about this belief in today's passage?

So if "good" people can't get to heaven on their own, how does anyone get to heaven? The rich man was told to sell everything he had so he could have treasure in heaven. We want kids (and ourselves) to understand that being wealthy and having a lot of possessions wasn't the young man's problem. Jesus knew his heart. Jesus knew he cared about his possessions so much that he wouldn't give them up to follow Jesus. The rich man didn't completely understand it, but he needed Jesus. Everyone needs Jesus because everyone sins and needs a Savior.



day 3

PAUSE TO REFLECT: Is there something in your life you're choosing to value over your relationship with Jesus? Ponder over this question with God. Ask Him to show you any changes or decisions you need to make to follow Jesus completely.

Mark gives us a beautiful description of how Jesus approached the young man as He explained a difficult truth. "Looking at him, Jesus loved him" (Mark 10:21). Jesus could have said, "Dude, are you kidding Me? You're not getting into heaven just because you've kept all the commandments." Jesus didn't shy away from the truth, but He said it with love and compassion. We are surrounded by people who believe misconceptions, half-truths, or complete lies about God's Word. Some days we might even believe them too. Let's make it a habit to open God's Word first to know the truth, live the truth, and share the truth because God's truth never changes.

PAUSE TO REFLECT: Ask the Holy Spirit to give you boldness when you see friends or family members believing lies instead of God's truth. Look for opportunities to love people even as you share hard truths with them.

NOTES

BONUS VERSE

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. *Romans 3:23-24*

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.
Romans 3:23-24 (KJV)

LEADER PACK ITEMS

USED TODAY:

3, 6-7, 9-11 and 18-21