



Connect: LIFEgroup discussion guide

a Christian community of fresh hope

INTEGRITY: When truth gets lost

Sun 14th Nov 2021

WELCOME: Last week's message focused on the point that even when we are aiming to live a life of Integrity, being who God created you to be, we all "miss the mark" sometimes. Despite all of David's wrongdoing, what counts in his favour is his readiness to take responsibility and repent.

- **In what ways do you find it easy/difficult to say sorry i. to God ii. to other people**
- **In what ways has your attitude, behaviour, language, lifestyle changed over the years, as a result of an ongoing heart for repentance?**
- **What do you think of the idea that repentance leads to forgiveness, but that doesn't always negate the consequences of our behaviour?**

Read Rom 3:23-24

In the original Greek language, verse 23 relates this same idea of "missing the mark," it can also be translated to read that people "*continue to fall short of the glory of God.*"

- **What difference does the idea of continuing to fall short make?**
- **In what ways do these verses contain bad news?**
- **In what ways do these verses present good news?**

DISCUSSING THE MESSAGE:

This week's message continues to consider Integrity but explores what happens at times when the truth gets lost along the way.

Read Rom 1:16 - 17

- **What does this reveal about "the gospel?"**
- **If you were asked to "share the gospel" what would you share?**

1. BELIEVING THE GOOD NEWS BRINGS US INTO SALVATION

Read John 3:16-17

- **What do these verses reveal about God's Good News for humanity?**
- **What does this reveal about God's motivation towards the world?**

Read Eccl 3:11

- **What do you think it means that God has "planted eternity in the human heart?"**
- **In what ways do you think this "eternal perspective" that God has given us can get lost?**

2. WHEN THE TRUTH GETS LOST, WE FEEL THE HEAT

God's "wrath" is not like human "wrath," it's not about punishing and more about discipline, it's less focused on people than it is on the things that are ungodly and that distract people from being who God created them to be. In the original language the word translated as "wrath" is a word that means a passionate desire and comes from a root word that means to covet or to desire something. It does mean "anger," but it is an anger that brings heat with the intention of causing people to repent.

Read Rom 1:18-20

- In what ways do people feel the heat of God's wrath?
- In what ways do people "suppress the truth?"
- Why does Paul say that God's "eternal power and divine nature have been clearly seen?"

Read Rom 1:21-23

- How would you sum up what these verses are saying?
- How do you think they relate to our world today?
- What are the "idols" in our generation?

3. WHEN THE TRUTH GETS LOST, WE SWALLOW THE LIE

The culture of our society – and Western democracies in general – is continually moving further from godly values and standards. If our society is moving further from the truth, then it is moving deeper into lies and we can expect that opposition to the truth will become fiercer.

Read Rom 1:24-25 (If you have access, read it in the Message version too)

- There are consequences to our choices – what are some of the consequences here?
- What perspective does the Message version add?
- Does the Message version remind you of any other passages (Consider Luke 15:11-32)

Read Rom 1:24, 26, 28

- In what ways is our world impacted by the lack of the presence of God?

Read 1 Cor 15:3 - 4

- In what ways does this sum up "the gospel?"

Paul summarizes the gospel in three key ideas:

- 1. Jesus died for our "missing the mark," the brokenness and sin in all of humanity.*
- 2. He was buried & then rose to life on the 3rd Day (conquering sin and death)*
- 3. He appeared alive then and continues to be alive now.*

This is Good News and all anyone has to do in response is... believe!

Our response:

Consider for a minute the spiritual state of the world we live in, consider the rejection of God and the values of Christianity in our wider society. Reflect on how this must impact the heart of God who loves the world so much that he sent the beloved Son. As followers of Jesus and carriers of the Good News we should be people of prayer – praying seriously for those we know who are not connect with Jesus. We should be people who care and are witnesses of Jesus by our lifestyle and values. We should be people who share the Good News of the Gospel in simple terms to others.

Pray together:

Pray for the strength, encouragement and empowering of the Holy Spirit to grow as a follower of Jesus to be:

- A person of prayer – pray for God's heart for the lost, to have a passion to reach people
- A person of care – whose lifestyle and values speak of Jesus and God's Kingdom
- A person who shares – to be empowered by the Holy Spirit to simple share the Good News

Pray for Connect Church and for our leadership team to truly be who God has called them to be.