

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Not in a small group? Contact us at smallgroups@myriversidechurch.com

Ice Breaker: A 2002 study conducted by the University of Massachusetts indicated that 60% of people lied at least once during a 10-minute conversation, and told an average of 2-3 lies. If this study is accurate, how does it impact our ability to see truth in the world around us? What do you typically do when you know something is a lie?

Talk It Over Together: *(Note: If your group is only meeting bi-weekly, cover the first 2 discussion questions of each week. If time allows, go back to the remaining questions.)*

1. Read and discuss John 14:6. This passage describes Jesus himself as truth. How does this strike you? How does this affect your life? How might a greater awareness of Jesus as the person of truth impact your life in tangible ways?
2. Read and discuss 2 Timothy 3:16-17 and James 1:22. Pastor Tom said, "putting on the belt of truth means we are self-feeding Christ-followers and that we don't just read the Bible for information, but for life change." Have you seen someone read the Bible for life change? What was the result? What does your personal reading of the Bible look like? How would you like to grow in this area?
3. Read John 16:13-14 and Ephesians 5:15-18. Pastor Tom said the that being filled with the Spirit is part of the "normal Christian life...it's not an 'optional extra' for really spiritual Christ-followers." Why do you think some people don't consider the Spirit's filling to be a normal part of their Christian life? How has this been personally challenging for you as you've grown in your faith? How would your days be impacted if you asked for God's Spirit to fill you with His truth?"
4. Read and discuss 1 Timothy 3:14-15. In his message, Pastor Tom indicated that "Christ-followers who think they can fly solo and be the "Lone Ranger" are doomed to a life of frustration, failure and defeat." How has regular commitment to participating in the Big 3 impacted your ability to live and walk in truth? Have you ever seen your disengagement effect your ability to see and experience truth?

PERSONAL READING

As you read through each passage, consider answering 3 simple questions: What did I learn about God from what I read? What did I learn about myself? What is God asking me to do as a result?

Day 1: Putting on the 1st piece of God's armor—Ephesians 6:10-18

Day 2: Embracing truth as our language—Ephesians 4:25 & Colossians 3:9-10

Day 3: Truth brings us freedom—John 8:31-32

Day 4: Truth is God's desire from us from the beginning of our lives—Psalm 51:6a

THE FIGHT OF YOUR LIFE



MESSAGE NOTES & SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

"SUIT UP: PART 1"

JUNE 1ST, 2014





"Suit Up" (Part 1)

June 1, 2014

By **Senior Pastor, Tom Lundeen**

(You can sign up for Pastor Tom's e-newsletter for his thoughts on various subjects at pastortom@myriversidechurch.com)



MESSAGE NOTES

_____ equipped soldiers lose battles.

Note Ephesians 6:10-18

The evil one will always be the a _____ in spiritual conflict if we allow him to.

Note Ephesians 6:14a and John 8:44

What does the "belt of truth" _____ like and how do we put it on?

1. The _____ of Truth (*note John 14:6*)

- If we're "in _____", we're in the truth.
- If we know _____, we know the truth.

Putting on the belt of truth means first of all knowing _____ is the truth.

It means knowing Jesus p_____...

2. The _____ of Truth (*note John 17:17*)

Note II Timothy 3:16-17 and John 8:32

Putting on the belt of truth means we are s_____ -f_____ Christ-followers and that we don't just read the Bible for information, but for life change (*note James 1:22*).

3. The _____ of Truth (*note John 16:13*)

He will never lead us to c_____ God's Word.

To be filled with the Spirit isn't an "optional extra" for really spiritual Christ-followers...it is part of the _____ Christian life.

4. The _____ and Foundation of Truth (*note I Timothy 3:14-15*)

Putting on the belt of truth means we have commitment to a _____ engagement in a local Christ-honoring church.



Christ-followers who think they can fly solo and be the "Lone Ranger" are _____ to a life of frustration, failure, and defeat.

We're in the fight of our lives:

- Truth makes the rest of the armor of God effective and u_____.
- Putting on the belt of truth means embracing truth as our l_____ (*note Ephesians 4:25 and Colossians 3:9-10*).
- "...it is the truth which gives this f_____ with ourselves, with our neighbors, and with God." (Goudge)
- *Note Psalm 51:6a*—this gives us an integrity where the "accuser of the brothers" and "the father of lies" has no g_____ to attack us.
- "Freedom from spiritual conflicts and bondage is not a power encounter; it's a _____ encounter." (Anderson)
- So are we putting on the "belt of truth"?

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey. You can use the connect card to let us know about your commitment, too!