

HOW TO USE THIS GROUP GUIDE

CONNECT (10-15 MINS)

- Pick one or more of the warm-up questions and have all the group members give a response to the question(s).
- Make sure everybody gets a chance to speak. Don't let talkative people dominate the conversation, but graciously welcome everybody to participate.

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TRUTH (10-15 MIN)

- Read the scriptures and paragraphs in this section to clearly communicate... what the Bible says about the week's topic.
- **Discussion Questions:** These questions get people thinking about the practical implications of the truth being discussed. Have one or two people give an answer, but don't spend too much time on these questions.
Truth (10-15 min)

GRACE (5 MINS)

- Read the grace scripture and section which shows how the passage points to Jesus Christ and God's grace.
- This section is really important, because it shows that life change begins with the grace of God and not our own efforts.

CHANGE (10-15 MINS)

- Have everyone give an answer to each of the change questions.
- Take a good amount of time here. Really encourage people to think through how they can practically put truth into action.

PRAYER (10-15 MINS)

- Read through the prayer focus points and have one or two people in the group pray.
- Make sure not to rush through prayer. The things we want God to change in our lives will often happen through prayer.

ALL INN

GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE
WEEK 1



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CONNECT

- ▶ Describe your perfect day off.
- ▶ Describe a time when you had to have a “truthful” conversation with someone. What was difficult about it and how did it go?
- ▶ What is a foreign culture that’s fascinating to you? What about it fascinates you?

TRUTH

Josiah was eight years old when he began to reign... And he did what was right in the eyes of the Lord and walked in all the way of David his father, and he did not turn aside to the right or to the left.

(2 Kings 22:1-2)

Josiah was an unlikely hero. Born into an age that was anything but godly, he lived and led as a godly king. There was a clear reason why – he rediscovered God's word. The transformation in Judah shows us the necessity of God's word for God's people. In fact, the only way to truly be the people of God is to be all in for truth.

The Spirit of the Age

Read 2 Kings 21:1-9

Josiah's grandfather, Manasseh, was one of Judah's worst kings. He filled Judah with pagan worship and everything that went along with it – illicit sex, child sacrifice, altars in the temple. Manasseh reigned for fifty-five years and he completely stripped Judah of its identity as God's people. Even though they were supposed to reflect the character of God to the surrounding nations by being distinct, Judah looked no different. It was a tragic loss of identity and purpose.

- ▶ What ungodly things have become so normalized in your culture that we've become desensitized to them?

Rediscovering Truth

Read 2 Kings 22:10-13

When Josiah heard the Book of the Law read, he knew instantly why Judah had lost its identity and purpose. They had broken their covenant with God. This moment was so jarring for Josiah that he tore his clothes. That's the thing about truth—it shows us the glaring differences between what we call good and what God calls good. It took a humble, penitent heart for Josiah to respond well to the truth. When we discover truth, it might be painful at first, but it paves the way for change.

- ▶ What are some common arguments against the idea of truth? Which idea have you had to wrestle with?

It's Not Enough

Read 2 Kings 23:24-27

The story is kind of a tragedy. Even though Judah made all these changes, God still sent them into exile. God knew that Judah's reforms would be temporary and that some king would come and undo all Josiah's good work. In Romans 1, Paul tells us that the human heart is very good at suppressing truth. It's impossible for us to make true reforms because the Law shows us what sin is, but it doesn't take sin away. We need something more.

GRACE

The Truth Made Flesh

Jesus didn't just come to be another Josiah, a messenger of truth. Jesus came into the world and said, "I am the truth." Our disobedience is a relational issue, not because we don't have enough information. People lose their identity as an image-bearer of God when they lose relationship with God. But now Jesus invites us into relationship with him through Jesus, and Jesus alone empowers obedience. Being all in for truth means living in a relationship with Jesus and living by his power as God's people.

CHANGE

- ▶ Can you think of any ways in which “the spirit of the age” sometimes takes away from your commitment to truth of God’s word?
- ▶ What step can you take this semester to be all in for truth? (Life & Doctrine, another class, One2One, Alpha, etc.)
- ▶ Why is it good news that Jesus is the truth and not just a messenger of truth?

PRAYER

- ▶ Pray for courage to go all in for truth as God's people.



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