

## **Living the Truth**

**GOALS** 1) To help students see that living a life in Truth only matters when it is done with love 2) To help students avoid hypocrisy by having humility 3) To inspire students to live out each moment in the Truth Topics

**SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION:** James 4:10, Matthew 5: 14-16

### **OPENING PRAYER**

**GROUP BUILDING:** Allow some time for everyone to mingle and chat before getting started.

### **GETTING STARTED**

We've talked about so much in the past weeks that it might seem overwhelming to consider all it means to live in Truth.

(Write down your answers to the following questions. Then, share your thoughts with the rest of the class.)

1. What new thoughts or ideas have you realized from this lesson series?
2. Of the ways we have discussed living in Truth, which was the hardest for you?

### **DIGGING IN**

There is no doubt that we are supposed to live out our faith in Truth and the Right way. While we'll be tempted to compromise what we believe, there is a truth and a proper way to behave. The Scriptures are clear that we, as Christians, are supposed to be different from those who do not follow Jesus.

One of the greatest dangers to Christianity, and to you as you seek to live the Truth, is that you will become self-righteous and hypocritical. This was a problem with some religious leaders in Jesus' time. They were called the Pharisees, and Jesus had some heavy stuff to say to them.

### **Read Matthew 23:25-28.**

#### **Discussion Questions:**

He uses several examples to illustrate their hypocrisy. What are some of them?

How does a hypocritical life affect those who are not Christian?

Do you think hypocrisy is dangerous to the Church today? Why/why not?

Jesus is clear—hypocrisy is not the way to live. In fact, if you are self-righteous and put your trust in your own goodness, you are committing one of the gravest sins of all. We are never called to live a righteous life to draw attention to ourselves. Read Matthew 5:14-16 Discussion Questions: Who is supposed to be glorified when people see our lives? You are not called to live truth so that you can be known as a good person or as a nice guy or a sweet girl. You are called to live rightly so that people will see the way that you live and glorify God. It's all about drawing attention to Him, not us. **MAKING IT** Imagine you lived the truth. You determined to honor Jesus with your life, recognizing right and wrong, and living it out in practical ways. You were selfless with your money, you were nice to people, you respected others, you demonstrated self-control...all that stuff. • What would people's perspective of you be? • What would your closest friends see differently in you? • What would your parents think about those transformations?

All of us have areas of our life we need to surrender to Jesus more fully. And there's no doubt that we will still struggle to tell the truth, to make good decisions, and to stay on track. But chances are, over time, you'll find that you are making progress. You'll realize that you aren't gossiping anymore, you're no longer disrespecting authorities, that you're living in truth. When that happens, avoid becoming proud and hypocritical. A hypocrite is good for self-glorification. A disciple is good for God's glorification.

## **CLOSING PRAYER**