

## Key Scriptures:

“Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” *John 8:31-32*

- “Let your heart retain my words; Keep my commands, and live. Get wisdom! Get understanding! Do not forget, nor turn away from the words of my mouth. Do not forsake her, and she will preserve you; Love her, and she will keep you.” *Proverbs 4:4-6*
- “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge” *Hosea 4:6*
- “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.” *John 10:27-28*
- “Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.” *John 17:17*
- “So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” *Romans 10:17*

## Start Talking:

- Can you think of something in your life from which you would like to be free? Share if you’d like to.
- When you read the context of “the truth shall make you free” (John 8:31-32), it becomes clear that those who find freedom in the truth are those who believe in Him, remain faithful to His teachings, and know the truth. Does this partially explain why those who do not believe in Jesus have drifted so far from the truth? Discuss.
- Hosea 4:6 reads, “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge.” Why do you think that so

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many in our culture reject the truth that is right before their eyes in the Bible, and remain in bondage to lies?

### Start Thinking:

- In John 18:38, Pilate asked Jesus, “What is truth?” Name some specific topics or examples of how people are asking this same question today?
- Read Matthew 7:24-27. Jesus compares people who hear His sayings and do (follow) them with people who hear His sayings and do not do them (or actually live them). Have you ever had an opinion about something, then changed what you thought after you actually participated in it? How often do people “talk” God’s Word, but not do it? (James 2:16, “Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.”)

### Start Sharing:

- Do you believe that the Bible is out dated or too old fashioned to be relevant in today’s “advanced” culture? How reliable is any current culture compared to the Word of God? (Read Matthew 24:35)
- How often do you go to the Bible about a subject that concerns you?
- Read Joshua 1:8. How much time do you spend daily, quietly, and patiently soaking in the reading of the Bible? What are some hindrances to this?

**Pray:** “Lord, help me to see the value of soaking in the depth of Your Word.”

### Start Doing

- Pastor Bobby said, “Many today want an audience with God without the authority of His Word.” Do you think that God will ever tell you anything that would contradict His Word? So, isn’t a deep knowledge of the Bible a good way to measure if you are really hearing from God? Discuss.

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- Pastor Bobby said, “If you only take a bath once a week, you will be soiled most of the time.” Does this same truth apply to sparsely reading the Bible?
- In John 17:17, Jesus asks the Father for us, “Sanctify them by Your truth”, then specifies, “Your word is truth.” Write down a specific way you will let the Bible cleanse you from the filthiness of the world and inward sin.