

Going Deeper

Finding a Foundation – To Tell The Truth

Nov 15 '20

Going Deeper is designed for use with your small group, a friend, or on your own. Its aim is to create time for you to spend with God and his word. Do as much or as little as you like. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact one of our pastoral staff.

1. **Pray** for each other, our church and our leaders, for personal and corporate renewal, and to allow God's word to transform us. **Share** a recent entry from your **Life Journal** with the group.

2. This Sunday we looked at the 9th commandment, which says "you shall not give false testimony against your neighbour."

This command speaks to the power of words and the importance of speaking the truth in love to build trust in relationships. What **thoughts** or **questions** did the message raise for you? Which ones, **encouraged** you or posed a **challenge** to you?

3. Research indicates that we can be lied to up to 200 hundred times a day. Most of these are considered "white" or polite lies. How harmless are these kinds of lies? Is lying ever justified? What consequences do you see in our "deception pandemic"? What damage or pain have you experienced as a result of a lie?

4. **Read James 3:1-12.** Why do you think James writes: "if we can control our tongue... [we can] control ourselves"(v2)? James impresses on us the **power** of the tongue, describing it as "set on fire by hell". Why such strong language?

5. Choose two or all of these passages to study: **John 8:42-47; Mat 12:33-37; Prov 12:13-22.** What is the **source** of our lying? **Why** do we lie? What is **God's** perspective on lying? How can we **invite** someone to live or to die with our words (**See Prov 18:21**)?

6. **Read Eph 4:14-15.** Paul affirms that truth is important, but must be accompanied with **love**. Where have you noticed in your own life where truth and love were **separated**? What were the **consequences**?

7. **Read James 5:16.** The Bible teaches that **confession** is the path to **healing**. Do you believe this? Are you willing to confess your dishonesty, in order to be healed from the destructive power of your tongue?

8. Take a moment of **silence** to consider how **God is speaking** to you. Is He asking you to make **changes** or to do something **new**? What concrete steps of **response** do you want to take? How can your group support you in these steps?



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