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Groups Sermon Study Questions

**DECEIT TO TRUTH**

*October 29, 2017*

**Message Summary**

We all have been wounded. Whether it is from past relationships, personal failures, missed opportunities, difficult choices, the wounds are real. How we deal with them matters. Do we ignore them, hoping they'll just disappear? Do we mask them, pretending they don't exist? Do we engage them, allowing God to bring healing and hope? This week, Pastor John reminded us how our wounds can deceive us. They tell us lies that we cling to. But when we embrace the truth, that we are good enough for God. We don't have to lie to ourselves and pretend to be something or someone they are not. We are free to be who God intends us to be.

**Consider This**

Do you have any physical scars? How did you get them?

Do you ever cover up your physical scars or try to hide them? Why or why not?

Thinking of our unseen wounds, what lies do we tell ourselves to mask them?

Why do you think we embrace these lies?

### **Read Luke 19:1-10.**

1. Zacchaeus, as a tax collector, was despised in Jewish culture. Tax collectors were thought of as scum as they would regularly scam others into paying more in taxes and pocket the extra. What types of lies do you think he may have believed about himself?
2. How does Jesus choose to interact with Him? How might this break these lies?
3. What freedom did Zacchaeus experience?
4. How do you and I embrace God's truth instead of the lies?

### **Read 2 Corinthians 12:9-10.**

5. Verses 7-8 describe a "thorn in the flesh" that Paul asked to be taken. What was the response from the Lord?
6. What assurance is there in the phrases "my grace is sufficient for you" and "my power made perfect in your weakness?"
7. How do we allow His grace to meet us in our woundedness?
8. When we let God use our "weakness" how does His power shine through?

9. How can we embrace God's strength in the difficult situations?

10. What healing is there in knowing God is willing to use us, even when we are not at our "best," for His glory?

### **Action Steps**

#### *Embrace the Truth*

Look at these truths from God's Word. Which one, or more than one, do you need to hold onto this week?

I am a new creation because I am in Christ. 2 Corinthians 5:1

I am accepted. Ephesians 1:6

I am a child of God. John 1:12

I am Jesus' friend. John 15:14

I am united with God and one spirit with Him. 1 Cor. 6:17

I am a Saint. Ephesians 1:1

I am a temple of God. His Spirit lives in me. 1 Cor. 6:19

I am redeemed and forgiven. Colossians 1:14

I am a member of Christ's body. 1 Corinthians 12:27

I am complete in Jesus Christ. Colossians 2:10

I am free from condemnation. Romans 8:1

I am loved. 1 John 3:3

I am a joint heir with Jesus, sharing His inheritance with Him.  
Romans 8:17

This week, I will live in this truth that I am:

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