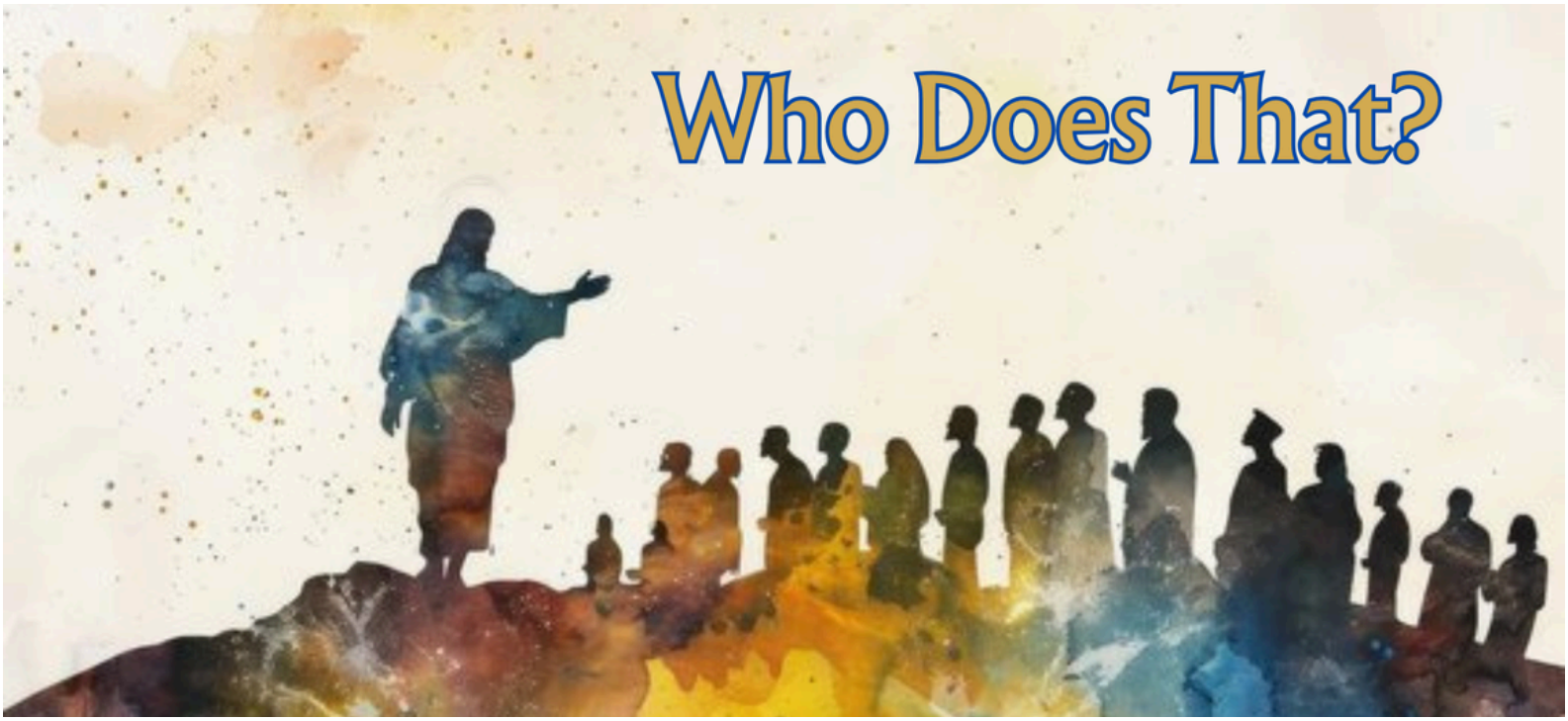


Small Groups Discussion Questions

Week 3: Nothing But The Truth (Matthew 5:33-37)

Group Goal: Jesus calls His followers to be people of integrity—people whose words, actions, and character consistently tell the same story. Kingdom people are trustworthy because they reflect the character of the One they follow.

1. Everybody Does It

White lies and half-truths are often used to avoid hurting someone's feelings or getting out of an awkward or inconvenient situation.

Discussion Questions:

- Why do you think dishonesty is so easily justified?
- What are we communicating when we treat honesty as something that comes in degrees?

2. Start With the Heart

Read Matthew 5:33-37.

Discussion Questions:

- Why do you think Jesus teaches that elaborate oaths work against the idea of integrity?
- What does the need to strengthen our words with promises or guarantees suggest about our credibility?

3. Public and Private

Discussion Questions:

- What are some ways people can be deceptive in order to gain an advantage, protect an image, or avoid responsibility?
- Kouzes and Posner summarize trustworthy leadership with the phrase: DWYSYWD — Do What You Say You Will Do.
- How important is this principle to you when evaluating a leader, friend, spouse, coworker, or fellow believer?
- Why can it be difficult to consistently live this way?

4. Collateral Damage

Read Ephesians 4:25.

In the sermon, Jerry described three ways a lack of integrity causes damage:
- It degrades community.
- It diminishes our identity.
- It violates human dignity.

Discussion Questions:
- Can you think of examples of each?
- Why is trust so essential to healthy relationships and healthy communities?

5. Truth in a Person

Read John 8:32.

Discussion Questions:
- If deception and dishonesty reveal a lack of integrity, how can knowing Jesus—the Truth—help us become people of truth?
- Why should this matter so much for believers living in a world filled with spin, excuses, and broken promises?

Personal Application

Nothing But The Truth

- Where is God calling you to greater integrity—in your words, your commitments, your relationships, or your private life?
- What is one practical step you can take this week to let your "yes" be yes and your "no" be no?