

Small Group Guide:

Finding Truth in God's Word

Opening Prayer (5 minutes)

Begin by thanking God for His revealed truth in Scripture and asking the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion and understanding.

Icebreaker Question (10 minutes)

"What's something you were absolutely certain about as a teenager that you later realized was wrong?"

This helps introduce the sermon's theme of how our understanding can be flawed and needs correction.

Key Takeaways from the Sermon

- 1. Truth is found only in God's revealed Word, not in human reason, feelings, or tradition alone.**
- 2. Throughout church history, believers have repeatedly drifted from Scripture and needed to return to "the once-for-all faith delivered to the saints."**
- 3. We all inherit beliefs from our denominational backgrounds that may not be fully biblical.**
- 4. God is revealed through Moses, confirmed through the prophets, personified in Christ, and witnessed by the apostles.**
- 5. Without Scripture, we inevitably remake God in our own image.**

Discussion Questions

Section 1: The Problem of Truth (15-20 minutes)

Q1: The pastor asked, "If I took the Bible away from you, what could you tell me about God?" How would you answer that question? What does your answer reveal?

Q2: Read Romans 1:18-23. How do you see people today "suppressing the truth in unrighteousness" and making God in their own image?

Q3: The sermon mentioned that "we make God like us—He likes what we like and hates what we hate." Can you think of an example where you've been tempted to do this?

Section 2: The Golden Calf and Us (15-20 minutes)

Q4: Read Exodus 32:1-6. What parallels do you see between Israel's creation of the golden calf and modern Christianity's tendency to reshape God?

Q5: Aaron said about the golden calf, "This is your God, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt." How do we sometimes credit God for things while simultaneously distorting who He really is?

Q6: The pastor said, "We're all in it" when it comes to being fools at times. Why is humility essential when discussing truth and doctrine?

Section 3: Where We've Gone Wrong (15-20 minutes)

Q7: The sermon outlined several false paths the church has taken:

- Reason alone
- Denying the supernatural
- Looking within ourselves
- Individual/subjective truth
- Personal feelings over Scripture

Which of these do you see most prevalent in today's church? In your own thinking?

Q8: Read Deuteronomy 13:1-3. Why does God sometimes allow false teaching to test us? What does this reveal about the importance of knowing Scripture?

Q9: The pastor mentioned we're all "protesters from protesters from protesters." How can we hold our denominational distinctives humbly while still seeking biblical truth?

Section 4: Returning to Scripture (15-20 minutes)

Q10: What does it practically look like to "return to the once-for-all faith delivered to the saints" in your daily life?

Q11: Read John 14:6 and 2 Peter 1:19-21. How do these passages anchor us when feelings, culture, or popular opinion contradict Scripture?

Q12: The pastor said, "Our job is to boil it down to what is the core, to the essentials." What do you consider the non-negotiable essentials of the Christian faith?

Personal Reflection (10 minutes)

Take a few minutes of silence for each person to consider:

- **What belief do I hold that I've never examined against Scripture?**
- **In what area am I most tempted to remake God in my image?**
- **What step can I take this week to align my thinking more closely with God's revealed Word?**

Practical Applications

Choose one or two to focus on as a group this week:

1. Scripture Evaluation Exercise

- Pick one strongly-held belief (about worship, salvation, the end times, etc.)
- Write down what you believe and why
- Search Scripture to see if your belief aligns with God's Word
- Be willing to adjust if needed

2. Denominational Heritage Study

- Research where your church tradition came from
- Identify both the strengths and potential weaknesses of that heritage
- Discuss with your group what aspects honor Scripture and what might need reformation

3. Daily Bible Reading with Fresh Eyes

- Commit to reading a passage each day asking: "What does this say about God, regardless of what I've been taught?"
- Journal what you discover
- Share insights with the group next week

4. Humility Check

- When you find yourself thinking "I'm right and they're wrong" about a theological issue, pause
- Ask: "How do I know this? Is it from Scripture or from tradition/preference?"
- Practice saying, "I could be wrong about this"

Closing Discussion (5 minutes)

"What's one thing from today's discussion that challenged you most? What's one thing you want to remember?"

Closing Prayer (5 minutes)

Pray together:

- For humility to recognize where we might be wrong
- For wisdom to discern truth from tradition
- For love toward those who see things differently
- For commitment to God's Word above all else
- For the Holy Spirit to guide us into all truth

"We find truth here in the once-for-all faith proclaimed to the saints, revealed through Moses, validated through the prophets, personified in the person of Christ, witnessed by his disciples who were sent out as apostles to carry the message of truth to the world."