

THE TRUTH ABOUT THE TRUTH

THEOLOGICAL QUESTION

What is truth and can I know it with certainty?

BIG IDEA

Absolute truth exists and is found in God's Word, the Bible, and in the person of Jesus.

SCRIPTURE USED

John 14:6: *Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me."*

OPENER

Two Truths and a Lie

Everyone comes up with two truths about themselves and one lie. The others have to guess what the lie is.

Example: The three things I could say about myself are, "I have been to Africa. I am allergic to horses. And I am one of 11 children." Others guess which of the three is not true. Then, when everyone has made their choice the person reveals the lie, "The lie is I am allergic to horses."

LESSON

EXPLAIN

You may or may not know this, but the whole issue of truth is in question these days. Television, movies, social media and more are constantly bombarding us with the idea that all truth is relative. Of course, there is one place that still believes in it—or at least used to.

ASK

- How many have heard this question: Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

EXPLAIN

It's what they ask witnesses in a court of law right before they testify for or against an alleged criminal. I guess the idea is that if a person's future or even life hangs in the balance based on what you may or may not say, it's sort of important that you get your facts straight, right?

I have another question for you. One that is even more important than if you were standing in a courtroom before a judge with someone's life on the line, because the way you answer this question will determine your verdict when one day you are standing in the ultimate courtroom before the ultimate Judge with your eternal life on the line.

The question is this: "Do you swear to know the absolute truth, the whole absolute truth, and nothing but the absolute truth, so help you God?"

You see, there are only two ways to answer this question. There are those that say "no." These are the people who don't believe in such a thing as absolute truth (i. e., a truth that applies to all people everywhere for all time), so why would they swear to know it? To them, everybody makes their own "truth," and at times, they even take offense when anyone comes along and says differently. And this isn't just a small group of people, either. According to a Gallup Poll, 52% of volunteer church leaders don't believe in absolute truth!

ASK

- How would you define absolute truth?
- What do you think about people who are very "black and white" about things?
- Why do you think many people have given up on the idea of absolute truth?

EXPLAIN

The problem in denying the existence of absolute truth is that you put yourself in a self-defeating position. By saying there is no absolute truth you are making an absolute statement presented as a truth. In other words, these people are saying something like this: It is an absolute truth that there is no absolute truth.

That's like me saying: "I cannot speak English."

Duh! I just did!

When you think about it, there are absolute truths all over the place. Take gravity, for example. If you drop an object and there is nothing attached