

Truthfulness

Most people would say it is wrong to lie and good to tell the truth. Yet, most people would also admit that at some time in their lives, they've told a lie. The apostle Paul identifies truthfulness as a defining virtue of a faithful believer. So, what does that mean for us imperfect followers of Jesus today? Join *Groundwork* as we study truth in the Bible and explore Scripture to discover what it means to be truthful and how it can shape our lives and faith. Together we'll discuss the nature of God's truthfulness and explore the connection between truthfulness, integrity, and trust. We'll also look at what we risk when we lie and how we can practically embody the Christlike virtue of truthfulness in everyday life.

AWARENESS Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- What is truth? How do you define truth?
- What is a lie? Is it ever okay to lie? Are there any risks to lying? If so, what are they? If not, why not?



LISTEN TO THE EPISODE: [Truthfulness](#)

READ [Numbers 23:19](#), [John 17:13-18](#), [John 1:1-2, 14](#), [Ephesians 4:17-25](#)

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- What does it mean to you that God cannot lie, that his character is truthful, and that his word and deed are the same thing?
- Throughout segments 1 and 2, hosts Scott Hoezee and Darrell Delaney make it clear that there is more to lying than just speaking falsely. Lying includes breaking promises, acting in ways that don't match our words, and choosing to not follow through on our promises. They also state that lying is *one person's effort to create another person's reality in place of the reality God created*. What struck you about this expanded definition of lying?
- In segment 2, Scott talks about John 1:14 which says Jesus was "full of grace and truth" and he cites the story of Jesus meeting the woman at the well in John 4 as an example of Jesus' grace and truth. Who in your life balances grace and truth well? Do you think you balance grace and truth well? If not, which comes easier for you— grace or truth?
- In segment 3, Scott reflects on Paul's teaching in Ephesians 4:17-25 and says, "Don't lie to each other; don't try to cut other people off from Christ and from truth. Speak truthfully so that they can stay close to God and to Jesus." Why does your decision to tell the truth or lie impact another person's relationship with God and Jesus? How have you seen this play out in your life or in the life of someone you know?

RELATED PASSAGES for further study

[Titus 1:1-2](#), [Isaiah 55:11](#), [Hebrews 6:18](#), [John 8:43-44](#), [John 14:6](#), [2 Corinthians 5:17-20](#), [1 John 1:8-9](#)

CONCLUSION

At the end of the episode, Darrell and Scott consider the connection between confession and truthfulness. They note that we need to be truthful people to actually engage in confession and admit when we've been untruthful or sinned! Reread [1 John 1:8-9](#), then close your study of truthfulness in prayer. Discuss with God what you learned and what the Holy Spirit brought to light for you. Include a time of confession and give thanks for this assurance that God is faithful, just, and will forgive us.

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