

# Week *Three.*

TRUTH TO LIVE BY

# 03

It's easy to drift away from the church, especially with the disruption that COVID forced on our normal routines. We don't need to go; we can watch online. We won't be missed. We unconsciously adopted a new normal with reordered priorities and church has fallen down on the list. But church is essential.

The Bible teaches that it must be a high priority in our lives, or we will miss out on some very important benefits that will affect both our spiritual life and our quality of life. God wants to meet us in the gathering of his people, where he will sustain us, strengthen us, teach us and give us a story and a purpose for our lives. We are better together!

# Introduction.

Our Christian faith is anchored in timeless, unchanging truth about God, about ourselves and about life. Together we learn truth that we can use in everyday life. We study the Bible together and open ourselves to teaching that can shape us in godly ways. We gather together around truth that guides us, protects us, and leads us closer to each other and to God.

## Starter Questions

As you were growing up did your parents or the adults in your life impress certain Bible truths upon you? What was one of those truths and how does it affect you today?

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Is there a Bible verse or passage that has become your life verse or your favorite verse? Why is that verse special to you?

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What's one idea from this week's sermon that impacted you or how have you responded to the Call to Action?

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# *Into the Word.*

## 1. READ ACTS 4:8-12

How is Peter's message here similar to his message in Acts 2:36-39? Notice Peter's increasing boldness before the scribes, elders and leaders. Of all Peter says in this passage, what one truth did he want them to know for certain? How is that truth still important for today?

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## 2. LOOKING AT LUKE 3:21-22

Are you surprised that Jesus himself was baptized? How does v.22 (the Spirit descending and the voice from heaven) help us understand the reason for Jesus' baptism? How do you think the people watching responded to the voice from heaven? How is Jesus' baptism relevant for today?

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# Application.

1. Have you ever felt “cut to the heart” in knowing Jesus died for your sins? What response should that produce within us? How does that truth affect your everyday life?

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2. Is there a situation in your life where you need Jesus to become your “rock” or your “anchor”? What situation makes you want to cry out with the psalmist, “O Lord, make haste to help me!” (Ps. 70:1)? Perhaps your group can pray with you at the closing of this session.

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3. Have you gone public with your faith? Have you been baptized? How did baptism impact you? How does the symbolism of baptism still affect who you are today and how you follow Jesus? Is baptism your next right step?

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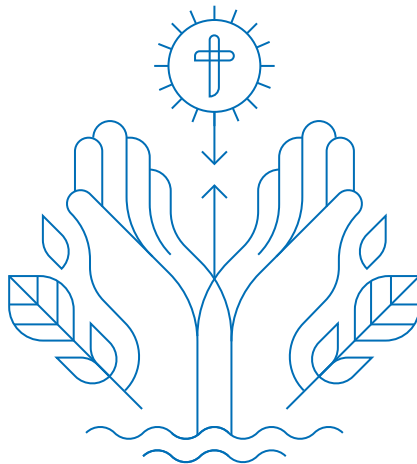
4. Who should you be praying for? What person in your life is “far off” in a spiritual sense (v.39)? How can you pray for them? Use the Closing Prayer time to pray that they would embrace the truth of Jesus Christ.

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## *Closing Prayer.*

Heavenly Father, thank you for your timeless truths that can make us wise, guide and protect our lives, and help us to know you better. We pray that you will cause each of us to treasure our relationship with you and seek your strength each day. May our hearts be ever grateful, tender toward you and may we receive your truth with open hands. Help us to become better together as we boldly proclaim Jesus as our Cornerstone. We ask these things in Jesus' wonderful name. Amen.



# Through the **Week.**

## **Morning Prayer**

O God, my Rock, my Anchor, lead me by your truth today. Allow your Word to guide my steps. With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments! May they be on my lips throughout the day, that I may share them with those around me. Put false ways far from me and graciously open my heart to teach me your truth. You have called me your beloved and I delight in calling you my Father. In Jesus' name, Amen.

## **Evening Prayer**

Heavenly Father, thank you for the day you have given me, and for bringing me to my night's rest. As I reflect on my day, I thank you for the truth you brought to my mind at various moments throughout the day. Thank you for those who shared your truth with me, and the opportunities you gave me to do the same. I confess that I do not always heed your truth, yet my heart's desire is to walk in the light, even as you are in the light. Grow my heart in righteousness that I may walk in your light all of my days. Now, as I rest, I trust that in peace I will lie down and sleep, for you alone, LORD, make me dwell in safety. Amen.

