

Dear Friends...Encouraging Words for Discouraging Times.

Sunday, June 20, 2021

Walk in Truth: 1 John 1:4

With a friend, your family or in your small group, discuss the following questions.

1. Truth is an important theme in 2 John that is quite relevant to us today. Do you believe truth is important? Is truthfulness something you place high value on? How important is it to know the truth?
2. Can you remember a time when you were lied to? What was the experience like?
3. Do you find it easy or difficult to tell when someone is lying to you? What about online? Do you think you are usually able to recognize when information being shared online is fake? Why or why not?
4. Can you think of a time when you disagreed with someone about what the truth was? How did you handle it?
5. What has helped to shape your spiritual beliefs? What has led you to accept those beliefs as truth? Are there any beliefs that you are questioning or feel uncertain of?
6. Did you grow up in the church? If so, what denomination were you a part of? What role did that faith community have in helping to shape your beliefs? Was there anything you disagreed with? (For those who did not grow up in the church, what other influences do you think helped to shape your worldview?)
7. Do you engage with any faith-based content online? How do you decide what leaders to follow, podcasts to listen to, or blogs to read? Do you ever share this content with others? If so, what kinds of things do you consider before sharing or reposting?
8. Do you ever interact with people who believe differently than you? How challenging is it to find the balance between holding onto the truths that are important to you, and engaging those who believe differently with love and respect. Are these types of conversations ever faith-deepening for you, or do you generally worry that they will negatively impact your beliefs?
9. Are there times when it's simply not worth entering into a conversation with someone who disagrees with you? How do you decide?
10. What do you think are the most important beliefs that you hold to be true?

Prayer and Action Item

Pray for one another out of the key points that were discussed. Ask God to show you if there are areas where you need to stand firmer in the truth that you believe. Also ask God to reveal areas where He is calling you to greater humility and grace as you interact with those who believe differently from you. Also spend some time praying for unity in the global Church, and in our church community at North Park.