



LESSON 3: SEEK TRUTH | TITUS 1: 10-16

Tonight we are going to jump into the second part of Titus 1, and look at what the Apostle Paul has to say about truth. Titus had a huge job to do, Paul asked him to straighten out the church, teach sound doctrine and appoint leaders. It's the teaching part of his task that Paul goes deeper into with verses 10-16. Crete was a place where truth wasn't necessarily valued. It was regular practice to lie or ignore the truth if it got you more followers or more money. Sound familiar? Because of this, Crete was full of people who acted one way and yet said something completely different. In a culture that doesn't care about the truth, Paul places a high value on it. He calls Christians in Crete (and us too) to be filled with truth. To be so well acquainted with it, that we can smell a fake from a mile away. He also calls us to help others distinguish between God's truth and the world's lies.

LESSON OBJECTIVE

In this lesson, we want students to see the important words and actions. In a world that doesn't value truth... we serve the God of truth. We shouldn't follow any other teachings except the word of God and Paul reminds us to be careful not only whom we listen to but also who or what we allow to influence us.

LESSON OVERVIEW

In this lesson, we will look at Paul's warning to Titus about people who are working not only against him but also against God's teachings. Paul gives a "watch out" for false truth and blunt instructions on how to handle problems. Following anything other than God's word is worthless and leads to problems, so seek truth and correct those things that aren't from the Lord.

BIBLE PASSAGES

The following passages will be covered in this lesson. Read through them, and use the margin to take notes.

Teaching Group 1: John 7: 14-19 (MES)

With the Feast already half over, Jesus showed up in the Temple, teaching. The Jews were impressed, but puzzled: “How does he know so much without being schooled?” Jesus said, “I didn’t make this up. What I teach comes from the One who sent me. Anyone who wants to do his will can test this teaching and know whether it’s from God or whether I’m making it up. A person making things up tries to make himself look good. But someone trying to honor the one who sent him sticks to the facts and doesn’t tamper with reality. It was Moses, wasn’t it, who gave you God’s Law? But none of you are living it. So why are you trying to kill me?”

Teaching Group 2: Proverbs 30: 5 (NLT)

Every word of God proves true.
He is a shield to all who come to him for protection.

Small Group Passage: Titus 1: 10-16 (NLT)

¹⁰ For there are many rebellious people who engage in useless talk and deceive others. This is especially true of those who insist on circumcision for salvation.¹¹ They must be silenced, because they are turning whole families away from the truth by their false teaching. And they do it only for money. ¹² Even one of their own men, a prophet from Crete, has said about them, “The people of Crete are all liars, cruel animals, and lazy gluttons.” ¹³ This is true. So reprimand them sternly to make them strong in the faith. ¹⁴ They must stop listening to Jewish myths and the commands of people who have turned away from the truth.

¹⁵ Everything is pure to those whose hearts are pure. But nothing is pure to those who are corrupt and unbelieving, because their minds and consciences are corrupted. ¹⁶ Such people claim they know God, but they deny him by the way they live. They are detestable and disobedient, worthless for doing anything good.

PAUSE AND REFLECT

TEACHING FROM THE HEART

After reading these passages, I feel God is teaching me, challenging me, convicting me...

Teaching Group 1: John 7: 14-19 (MES)

Teaching Group 2: Proverbs 30: 5 (NLT)

Small Group Passage: Titus 1: 10-16 (NLT)

Is your heart ready to teach this lesson? If no, what will it take to get your heart right to teach?

Now that you're done, look through your above thoughts and make which ones you feel may be appropriate (should the opportunity arise) to teach, communicate or share with your small group.

TEACHING GUIDE

Starting Out

Begin the lesson by helping your students generate some thoughts about the theme of the lesson. Use the following fill-ins to assist you. Feel free to allow some discussion.

Does our world + culture value truth? How can we focus on truth when we are bombarded with lies + useless information? The culture in Crete was also filled with lies and Paul urged Titus and other Christians to highly value truth because whatever you fill your mind with will affect the way you think + act.

Teaching Groups “Study”

This is the time for you to break your C-group into two different groups. Make the groups “random” and see to it that these groups change each week. Give the following instructions to your C-Group:

As you break into groups, don't sit with the groups - LET YOUR STUDENTS DEAL WITH THE PASSAGE ON THEIR OWN. After a couple of minutes, you should walk around to check on and help each group.

Teaching Groups “Teach”

Have each group give their “presentation” and summary; don't let the other students in the group be disruptive. Since you may experience a degree of CHAOS once the TEACHING GROUPS are done sharing. I suggest you take a few moments to wrap up each passage (you can either do this after each group is done, or after both of them have finished). This will allow you to highlight the important points from each passage and relate them to the theme of the night's lesson.

SMALL GROUP TIME

Use your small group time to a) discuss the Bible passage and answer any questions, b) make personal applications, and c) share prayer requests and pray.

Bible Study and Discussion

Read Small Group Passage: Titus 1: 10-16 (NLT)

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CONTENT QUESTIONS

1. Does anything in this passage seem weird or doesn't make sense?
2. Based on this passage, how would you describe the people + culture of Crete?
3. What do you think “circumcision for salvation” means?
4. Why are these people lying or engaging in useless talk?
5. What does Paul say should happen to the deceiving people?
6. According to the text, how should Titus make people strong in their faith?
7. How do you do that? How do you reprimand someone strongly or sternly?
8. According to the text, what do you think “Jewish Myths” are? Do you think there are any “Christian Myths”

. APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. What do you think it means to be a rebellious person? How do you become one? Better yet, how do you not become one?
2. What do you think “useless talk” is? Can you think of an example? Is there a difference between useless talk and lies? How are they both dangerous to truth?
3. What do you think “silencing” someone looks like?
4. In verse 16 Paul says, “such people claim they know God, but deny him by the way they live”. What do you think this means? The fact is we are all hypocrites in some ways. In what ways do your actions “deny your faith in Christ”? Try to think beyond the obvious behaviors (cussing, drinking, crude jokes, lying) If you claim to know God and trust in him, how does worry fit into that? Pride? Fear?
5. Is there any way to not do this? Is it possible to live the way we claim to live?
6. What is purity?
7. Verse 15 says that “Everything is pure to those whose hearts are pure”. What do you think this means? The condition of our hearts often provide a lens through which we see the world. How can we put on a “purity lens”?
8. What do you fill your life and mind with? How have you seen some of the things and people you’ve filled yourself with influence how you see things or how you act? Try to think of both good and bad examples.
9. Is there any influences that you need to get rid of? TV shows? Music? Friends?
10. How can you tell if someone else has a pure heart? Is it our place to judge?
11. The culture of Crete has some similarities to our culture today. How can we as Christians live within that culture but not be affected by it?
12. Lastly, do you think we should seek truth today? What does that look like in your life? How well do you think you are doing at seeking truth? Be honest, what truth are you truly seeking? How do we seek God’s truth in our life more?