



# Brown Community Group Discussion Guide

## “Character of God” Series Lesson 12 – October 23, 2016

### Attribute of Truthfulness (Faithfulness)

#### I. **Lesson Starters:**

Last lesson we looked at the Communicable attribute of Wisdom. *God’s wisdom means that God always chooses the best goals and the best means to those goals. God’s decisions about what he will do are always wise decisions, bring the best result from God’s perspective and through the best possible means.*

Today we will continue our review of Communicable Attribute of Truthfulness (Faithfulness).

#### II. **Attribute of Truthfulness**

*God’s truthfulness means that he is the one true God and that all his knowledge and words are both true and the final standard of truth. The word “veracity” is also sometimes used, which means truthfulness or reliability.*

- The first part of the definition affirms that the God revealed in scriptures is the true or real God and that all other so-called gods are idols.

#### **Jeremiah 10:10-11**

***10 The Lord is the true God; he is the living God and the everlasting King...The Gods who did not make the heavens and earth shall perish from the earth and from under the heavens”***

#### **John 17:3**

***3 And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true god, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent”***

- God is his own being or character is the one who fully conforms to the idea of what God should be in the context of infinitely perfect in power, in wisdom, in goodness, in lordship over time, etc.
- God himself is the only one who has the perfect idea of what the true God should be like
- We have implanted in our spirit and minds a reflection of God’s own idea of what the true God must be, this helps us through the work of the Holy Spirit to know and recognize the real God.

#### III. **God’s Words are Both True and the Final Standard**

#### **Numbers 23:19**

***19 God’s faithfulness means that God will always do what he has said and fulfill what he has promised***

#### **Deut. 32:4**

***4 “a God of faithfulness”***

- Scripture affirms God’s truthfulness:
  - God’s knowledge is true, perfect and final (Job 37:16)
  - Since God’s knowledge is perfect and that God knows all things and his perception or understanding is always correct; then we can say that the “standard” for truth and knowledge is set and conforms to “God’s Knowledge”
  - We must think like God to accurately think anything in truth on any subject
- Scripture affirms God’s words are the final standard of truth:
  - For something to be a standard, it must be eternally reliable and faithful
  - God always delivers on his promises and we can depend on him to never be unfaithful

The essence of true faith is taking God at his word and relying on him to do as he had promised. God will never leave you by yourself or be untruthful and will always deliver on his promises. That is the definition of a “Eternal Standard” that we can hang our lives on and follow.

#### **IV. God’s Words Correspond to Reality and Truth**

God always speaks the truth when he speaks:

- “The unlying God” (Titus 1:2)
- God’s every word is “pure” (Psalm 12:6)
- “Every word of God proves true” (Proverbs 30:5)
- It is impossible for God to lie (Hebrews 6:18)
- Jesus said, “Your word is truth” (John 17:17)

God’s words are not simply true in the sense that they conform to some standard or truthfulness outside of God; but they are truth itself! They are the standard by which all words and statements are to be judged. Whatever conforms and agrees with God’s words are true, and what fails to conform is not true.

#### **V. Truthfulness is Communicable to a degree through His Knowledge**

We can be imitators of God’s truthfulness by striving to have “the true knowledge about God and creation”. We can begin to think “true thoughts” as we learn from scripture that then guides us in our observations, interpretations, wisdom and decisions in the natural and spiritual world. This realization should encourage us in our pursuit of God’s knowledge in all areas of the natural, social and spiritual realms. Growth in our knowledge of God is part of the process of becoming more like God.

In a society that is increasingly less truthful and where it does not stand for much, we have to continue to remember that it is extremely important that we be “imitators of God in all we do” including being truthful:

- Putting away all falsehood... speak the truth (Eph. 4:25)
- Do not lie to one another (Col 3:10)
- God is pleased with us when we put devious talk far away (Proverbs 4:24)
- Speak with words that are also acceptable to God (Psalm 19:14)
- Not to bear false witness (Ex. 20:16)
- Speaks truth from their heart (Psalm 15:2)
- Hates falsehood (Proverbs 13:5)

When we lie, we dishonor God and diminish his glory and truth. When we are created in his image, then we are to reflect God’s glory in our own lives and act in a way that is not contrary to our God’s Attribute of Truthfulness.

#### **VI. Group Questions:**

1. Do you agree or disagree that our understanding of “who God is and his knowledge” drives our own image and model of “God”? Discuss the interaction and why “Christians” appear to end up with what appears to be so many models of who God is?
2. If God is the only one who knows and understands the “true God and knowledge”, then how do we understand or get a full reflection or understanding of this infinite being?
3. Discuss Section III & IV, God’s word is shown as truth itself, the eternal standard? Agree or not, Do you believe this? Why then do we seem at times to have so much trouble following it and growing more wisdom and knowledge?
4. How can we be “imitators of God and his truthfulness” if we do not continually strive for more of God’s knowledge? Is this not one of the ultimate challenges from God?
5. When a person lies, why do we do it and what is the “base spiritual” issue that typically causes this situation in the first place?