

(Lesson 1-1 The Truth)**Exploring Truth**

What is truth? How do we find it? How can we know for sure we have it? We will study all these questions in Lessons 1-1 and 1-2. Please reflect on and answer each of the following questions.

1. In your opinion, define truth.

2. Does truth depend on public opinion or consensus? _____

3. Is truth absolute or relative? _____

4. What percent of what your friends tell you is truth?

5. What percent of what your politicians tell you is truth?

6. What percent of what your pastor/priest preaches is truth?

7. What percent of what you read in the Bible is truth?

8. Which of the following statements are true:

(a.) The sky is blue.

- (b.) The world is round.
- (c.) Someday I will die.
- (d.) $2+3=5$
- (e.) Mother Theresa was a good person.
- (f.) In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

Examples of Truth

9. Consider a man by the name of Joe. Let's examine whether he is a good person. His friends say he is good, his wife says he is good, and his church says he is good. I also conclude "he is good;" is this statement truth?

10. If everyone in the whole world agrees "Joe is good," is this truth?

11. What if God says, "Joe is good;" is this truth?

12. Consider a man by the name of Peter. He is poorly thought of throughout the land, and everyone says "Peter is bad," but God says "Peter is good." What is the truth concerning Peter?

13. Let's examine the controversy concerning evolution/creation. There are many theories of how we came into being, but there is only one account of truth; and that is what actually happened. Since we weren't there we will never know unless God exists and He tells us. Unless God reveals the truth concerning the details of creation, we must base our conclusions on observations. How reliable are observations?

The word of God, Jesus and the Truth

14. Christians believe that Jesus Christ is the truth, just like He said. Read John 14:6 Jesus said "I am the way, the truth, and the life." We also believe that Jesus is known by another name, the word of God. Read the following and write in our own words what these verses mean to you.

John 1:1 "In the beginning, the word existed. The word was with God, and the word was God."

John 1:14 "And the word became flesh, and dwelt among us (and we beheld his glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father), full of grace and truth. "

Rev 19:13 In this verse the rider on the white horse is described. " He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is called the word of God."

15. Read Genesis 15:1. Who is the "word of the Lord" that Abram saw in his vision?

Gen 15:1 "After these things, the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, saying..."

16. Consider what the Lord said to the following people:

David

1 Chronicles 22:8 "But the word of the Lord came to me saying..."

Jeremiah

Jeremiah 1:4 " Now the word of the Lord came to me, saying..."

Zechariah

Zechariah 7:4 "Then the word of the Lord of armies came to me, saying..."

17. **Important Note:** Abraham, David, Jeremiah, Zechariah and many others knew the Word of the Lord.

18. Before the birth of Jesus, how many had access to the word of the God?

19. If someone practices a different religion and believes the word of God, does he/she have truth? Do they have Jesus?

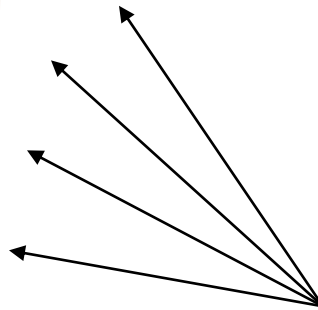
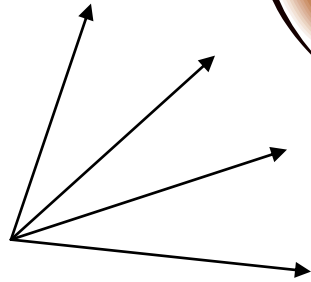
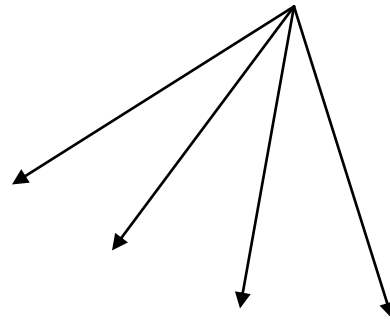
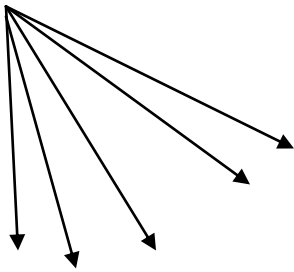
20. write a sentence that explains what you think is the relationship between Jesus, the word of Lord, the truth, and the Bible.

Truth and Non-Truth

21. How does this man know truth? _____

Truth

Pseudo-Truth



Lies

Fibs

22. What are sources of truth?

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____

23. What are sources of non-truth?

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____

24. How can you distinguish between truth and non-truth? This will be the topic of lesson 1-2 and 1-3.

25. Read John 8:31-32 Write in your own words what this means.

John 8:31 So Jesus said to those Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are really my disciples.
John 8:32 And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

26. Consider writing this scripture on your heart:

John 1:14 And the word became flesh and dwelt among us,
and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from
the Father, full of grace and truth

Conclusion: The word of God, the truth, has always existed. When the word of God became flesh, He was called Jesus.

27. Assignment:

Read some of the New Testament; every time you come to the word "Jesus," substitute "the word of God". Then read some of the Old Testament; each time you come to "the word of God (the Lord)", substitute the word "Jesus." Also try substituting the word "truth" for either "Jesus" or "the word of God." This will give you a new depth to the Bible.

This concludes lesson 1-1, in lesson 1-2 and 1-3 we will deal with "How to access the truth and how to know when you have it."