



BULLS, BUCKLES & BREAK-UPS

Bull: Words, Honesty

June 10-11, 2017

Heather Semple

Warm-up

1. Share a time when you witnessed or were part of a situation where trust was broken due to a lie. How did the lie affect those involved on both sides of the situation?

Speaking the Truth

Everyone has lied at one time or another. We tell someone we will meet them or be somewhere at a certain time, but then are late. We like to justify it and find excuses, but really it is lying.

Lying can be:

- Something intended to convey a false impression
 - Saying something that you know isn't true
 - Omitting truth with intent to deceive
1. Read Romans 3:10-13. What are some lies we tell ourselves?
 2. Lying to ourselves sets us up to lie to others. Discuss how this can happen.
 3. Read Genesis 3:4 and John 8:44. What does the first lie in history indicate about the source of falsehood?
 4. Discuss reasons someone might lie (self-preservation, self-protection, to make ourselves look good, make someone else look bad, etc.).
 5. Read Proverbs 12:22 and Proverbs 14:5. What qualities are associated with a person who is honest?

Knowing the Truth

1. Read John 1:14 and 14:6-7. Discuss why you think Jesus is called "the truth."
2. Why is this central to the gospel?
3. Read Acts 5:1-11. The consequences for lying were great for Ananias and Sapphira. What do you think might have taken place in the fellowship of their group of believers if the consequences for dishonesty were mild and the deception appeared profitable?
4. Describe how you felt when someone else gained financially, or in rank or position, because of dishonesty.

5. How can one person's dishonesty become toxic for a whole group of believers?
6. What are some ways we lie to God, to the Holy Spirit, and think we get away with it?
7. Read Ephesians 4:29-32. How does unwholesome talk affect our relationship with God?
8. How does it affect our witness to unbelievers?

Knowing Jesus and having a relationship with him, is having a relationship with truth.

Restoring the Truth

1. Read Matthew 9:37-38. "The harvest is great and the workers are few." Explain why this makes it even more important that we demonstrate godly character.
2. What are some situations, if any, when it is best to not say anything rather than speak the truth?
3. Identify a habit that you would like God to help you change: exaggeration, gossip, blaming others for mistakes, angry outbursts, slandering an ex, passive-aggressive treatment, etc.
4. How has this thing blocked your relationship with Christ?

Grace + Truth = Love. We need to have grace with truth to show the love of Christ.

5. Discuss what it means to give both grace and truth to someone.
6. Give an example of how Jesus showed both grace and truth in how he dealt with people.

Forgiveness is the first step in unblocking your relationship with Christ and others. Think about forgiveness as you move into prayer time.

Begin your prayer time with silent prayer to give each person time for private confession to God and to ask for his forgiveness. Ask God to reveal the name of person who needs to have your trust restored. Pray that God would convict you this week when a moment comes when you aren't being truthful.

7. Write the name of the person whom you will approach this week to ask for forgiveness to restore trust. _____

For Parents and Families

1. How do you think your kids would answer Pastor Heather's opening question: "...are you a truth teller? Or white liar?"
2. What have you done when you *knew* your child has lied to you?
3. How have you used the "caught telling a lie" to instill the value of always telling the truth?
4. Have you ever said to your kids something similar to what Pastor Heather says, "God will tell me if you lie"?
5. What was their response? Did they tell you the truth? Or lie anyway?
6. Now think back to when *you* were a child. Share a time when you thought you would get away with lying to your parents but they knew you were lying. What was the lie and what was the consequence of lying to your parents?
7. What are you modelling about truth-telling in front of your kids?
8. If they're not seeing you being honest and speaking the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15), how will you confess that to them and do better moving forward?

