

Session 2: Grasp God's Truth and Righteousness

Note: These questions were pulled from the *Your Story Has a Villain Bible Study Guide* curriculum, which you can purchase at the link on the series home page. For the best group experience, order books for everyone in your group.

CONNECT

Take a few minutes to get better acquainted with fellow members. Then choose one of the following questions to discuss as a group:

- What is something that resonated with you in last week's personal study that you would like to share with the group?

OR

- When do you remember reading or hearing about "the armor of God" for the first time? How did you think that armor was supposed to work?

WATCH

Watch Session 2: *Grasp God's Truth and Righteousness* (15 minutes).

DISCUSS

Now discuss what you just watched by answering the following questions.

1. Begin by discussing the questions that were raised at the end of this week's teaching:

[illegible]

What lies of the Enemy are you believing right now? What is the Enemy making look valuable when it's actually cheap and of this world? How will you commit to walking in the righteousness of Jesus?

2. Jesus said "there is no truth" in Satan and that "when he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies" (John 8:44). What are some of the biggest lies that our culture has chosen to promote in recent years? How would you assess the damage that has been caused because of these lies?

3. The belt that the Roman soldiers wore in Paul's day was called the balteus. It was the first article of armor they put on, and it ended with several throngs with metal fittings that served to protect sensitive parts of the body. The Roman soldier would strap a sword to this belt when he went into battle. How does this description reveal the importance that Paul put on God's truth? Why is truth foundational to the other pieces of spiritual armor?

4. Paul states that we are next to put on the "breastplate of righteousness" (Ephesians 6:14). As noted in this teaching, Paul is referring to something known as sanctifying righteousness. Ask someone to read aloud 1 Peter 1:14–16. According to this passage, what does it mean to walk in this kind of righteousness? What does it mean to pursue a "holy" life?

5. Ask someone to read aloud 2 Corinthians 5:21. One of the profound truths of the gospel is that Jesus not only takes away our sin in the process we call salvation but also gives us something—His righteousness. What is the difference between confronting

Satan with our own righteousness versus
confronting him with Christ's righteousness?

RESPOND

During Jesus' public ministry, He was often confronted by the Jewish religious leaders of the day. On one occasion, these leaders made a big deal of claiming they were children of Abraham—Hebrews by blood and through their worship of God. Jesus countered their claims by revealing they were descendants of someone else when it came to their preference for lies over truth:

Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I have come here from God. I have not come on my own; God sent me. Why is my language not clear to you? Because you are unable to hear what I say. You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. . . . Whoever belongs to God hears what God says. The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to God."

John 8:42–44, 47

What did Jesus say these religious leaders would do if God were truly their Father? What lies from Satan were they believing that caused them to not recognize Jesus for who He was?

How can we tell when we are listening to Satan's lies rather than staying focused on the truth? What are some symptoms that can help us recognize when we are being deceived?

PRAY

Conclude this session by affirming your belief that God is the source of all truth—that whatever God declares to be true is true indeed, regardless of what the world around us may say. Express gratitude to Jesus that you have been covered by His righteousness because of His death on the cross. Commit to equipping yourself with the belt of truth and the breastplate of righteousness each day as you seek to serve Him.

Your Story Has a Villain Study Guide

© 2024 by Jonathan Pokluda

Published in Grand Rapids, Michigan, by HarperChristian Resources. HarperChristian Resources is a registered trademark of HarperCollins Christian Publishing, Inc.

Requests for information should be sent to customercare@harpercollins.com.

ISBN 978-0-310-16982-6 (softcover)

ISBN 978-0-310-16983-3 (ebook)

All Scripture quotations are taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.® Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

Any internet addresses (websites, blogs, etc.) and telephone numbers in this study guide are offered as a resource. They are not intended in any way to be or imply an endorsement by HarperChristian Resources, nor does HarperChristian Resources vouch for the content of these sites and numbers for the life of this study guide.

All rights reserved. No portion of this book may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means—electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording, scanning, or other—except for brief quotations in critical reviews or articles, without the prior written permission of the publisher.

HarperChristian Resources titles may be purchased in bulk for church, business, fundraising, or ministry use. For information, please e-mail ResourceSpecialist@ChurchSource.com.

First Printing December 2024 / Printed in the United States of America