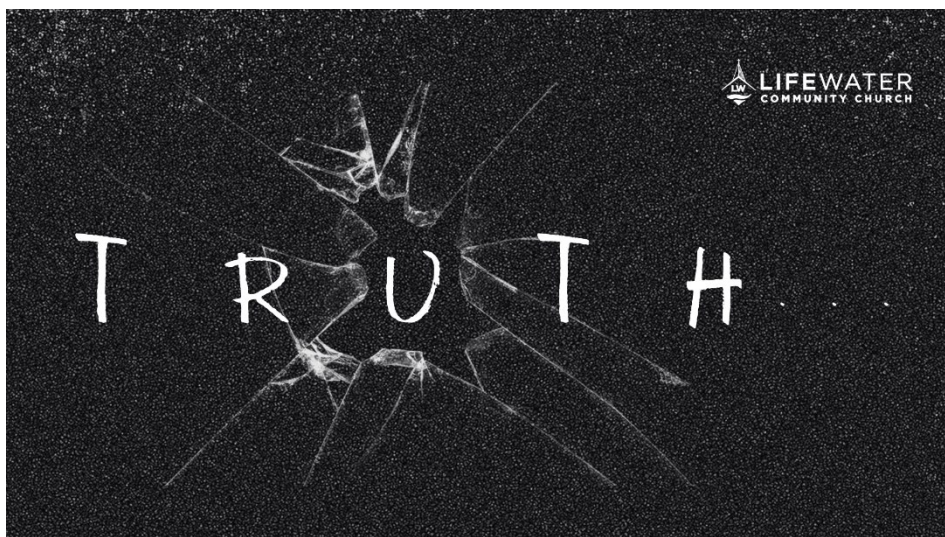


# LifeGroup Sermon Series Study

2022-2023

*Series One*



## “Truth...”



Truth is under attack. At no other time has truth been challenged, debated, and not believed. Even ideas that were well accepted in the past are being challenged and rejected. The simple question is, what can we believe today? What can we trust? Who can we believe? This is why followers of Christ need something they can anchor themselves to. A house built on the rock is more needed today than at any other time.

Culture, genders, races, and faiths are divided about what is truth. Issues like God’s provision, His decisions, His Word, His laws, and His motives are all being challenged. Political pressure, cultural swings, and popular religious leaders have turned their back on the Bible and sided with unbiblical ideas and ideals. This is where followers of Christ need to become informed, teach truth to their children, and take a stand for biblical truth in a loving way. Wars of words, political debates, and protests rarely change lives.

God, through His Word, has plenty to say about why bad things happen to Godly people, why God doesn’t do something...say “Yes”, why the Bible is reliable and authentic, why Jesus is the only way to God, why God/the Bible is against homosexuality, and why God considers abortion murder. This series is not about a political party or being culturally sensitive. It’s simply about learning what the Bible has to say about these questions.

For His Kingdom,

Pastor Doug

**“Truth...”**

**LIFEGROUP ROSTER**

<b><u>NAME</u></b>	<b><u>PHONE #</u></b>	<b><u>E-MAIL</u></b>

**“Truth...”**  
**Why Do Bad Things Happen to Godly People?**  
**Job 1:1-2:10**  
**Lesson 1**

**I. Purpose:**

- A. To help us understand that a Christian is not exempt from experiencing difficulties.
- B. To help us know that Satan is the source of destructive experiences.
- C. To help us see that God is ultimately in control of all things.

**II. Community that Cares:**

- A. What is your next step and how are you doing with taking that step?
- B. How are you doing with your 5-5-5 this week?

**III. Community that Understands the Background:**

Job is a man who was right with God. He is described as a man who was blameless and upright. Job also saw the financial blessing from God. He was extremely wealthy and had a large family, but he experienced some very difficult days. He experienced the loss of children, loss of his wealth, loss of friendship, and loss of personal health. He basically lost everything.

His friends and his wife blamed him for these difficulties. They said he was the cause of God's wrath. His friends and his wife's philosophy was that good things happen to good people and bad things happen to bad people. They felt like their role was to get Job to confess his sin so that things could get back to "normal". Job felt very similar to his friends and his wife, but the difference was that he could not figure out what he had done wrong. He looked at his life and could not find what he had done to deserve such punishment.

What made things even worse was that God was silent during this time. When God finally did speak, he didn't offer Job any answers. God told Job that it was better to know God than to know answers.

## Lesson 1 cont.

God eventually restored Job, restored his wealth, and restored his family.

This lesson looks at the Satanic attack in spiritual warfare and what we should know about the attack and how to overcome it. May we remember Job the next time we experience difficulty.

### IV. **Community that Learns:**

- A. Review the points of the Pastor's message. What spoke to you, challenged you, or encouraged you?
- B. Sermon outline: "Truth..." – Why Do Bad Things Happen to Godly People?

Three factors to consider that play into why bad things happen to Godly people: (Spiritual Warfare)

1. God has complete (\_\_\_\_\_) over all things. Job 1:6-7, 12, 20: 2; 1-2, 6, 9-10 (Sovereign)
2. Satan has always been and will always be an (\_\_\_\_\_). Job 1:9-11; 2:4-5
3. Satan is the cause of bad things happening because he is an (\_\_\_\_\_) of humans. Job 1:13-19; 2:7-10

### V. **Community that Applies:**

- A. Do you normally think that Satan is behind the difficulty that you are experiencing? Why or why not?
- B. What are some of the reasons why God allows for difficult things to happen to us?
- C. Are you ok with those reasons? Why or why not?

## Lesson 1 cont.

- D. To experience difficulties because of our poor choices is one thing but why is it so hard to accept difficulties when we didn't do anything to deserve it?
- E. Is it significant to you that Satan all through scripture is an accuser? Why or why not?
- F. Why do you think Satan desires to bring bad things into our lives?
- G. Does it bring you comfort or distress to know that God is always in control? Why?

### VI. **Community that is Accountable:**

Is there something you need to start or stop doing because of what you learned about spiritual warfare?

### VII. **Community that Prays:**

Spend a few minutes praying about your next step.

### VIII. **Community that Looks Ahead:**

- A. The scriptures next week are II Corinthians 12:7-10.
- B. If you missed Sunday's sermon, watch online at [www.lifewatercc.org](http://www.lifewatercc.org) before the next Life Group.
- C. Reflect on next week's questions during your five minutes of daily silence.

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**“Truth...”**  
**Why Doesn't God Do Something...Say Yes?**  
**II Corinthians 12:7-10**  
**Lesson 2**

**I. Purpose:**

- A. To help us understand why God answers some prayers “yes” and doesn’t answer others “yes.”
- B. To help us know that God cares and wants the best for us.
- C. To help us see that Satan’s goal is to defeat us.

**II. A community that Cares:**

- A. What is your next step and how are you doing with taking that step?
- B. How are you doing with your 5-5-5 this week?

**III. Community that Understands the Background:**

Paul was a very talented guy. He had a superstar background with his training, his experience as a Pharisee, and his background. He was a leader. He was accomplishing a lot. He loved a challenge. He made things happen. He also had a dramatic salvation experience where Jesus appeared to him personally to confront him. He had experienced visions and revelations from God. He also wrote a majority of the New Testament under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

If there was anyone who could have pride it was Paul. But Paul knew how foolish that would be. The reason he knew how foolish it would be to bring glory to himself is because of the “thorn” he had. No one knows what that thorn was. Everyone could see his “thorn” in the flesh. But nothing is written to describe what it specifically was. The root word that is used here is a tent stake. It can mean “something which frustrates and causes trouble in the lives of those afflicted”.

Over and over again Paul asked God to take away his “thorn” but God’s answer was “my grace is sufficient”. Paul did exactly what he told others to do, pray. But God’s answer was “no”. The grace that God gave Paul was sufficient for Paul to deal with his thorn.

## Lesson 2 cont.

That sufficiency Paul received when he acknowledged how weak he was and how much he needed God.

### IV. **Community that Learns:**

A. Review the points of the Pastor's message. What spoke to you, challenged you, or encouraged you in these points?

B. Sermon outline: "Truth..." – Why Doesn't God Do Something... Say Yes?

Four factors to consider that play into "Why Doesn't God Do Something or Say "Yes?":

1. There was a purpose for Paul's (\_\_\_\_\_).  
II Corinthians 12:7
2. The (\_\_\_\_\_) of Paul's suffering was a "Messenger of Satan". II Corinthians 12:7
3. God's grace is (\_\_\_\_\_). II Corinthians 12:8-9a
4. Paul grew and became (\_\_\_\_\_) with being weak.  
I Corinthians 12:9b-10

### V. **Community that Applies:**

A. Have you ever had a difficulty that you prayed God would remove it? What happened?

B. If God took it away how did it make you feel? If God didn't take it away how did it make you feel?

C. Have you ever had Satan oppress you? When? What did you do?



## Lesson 2 cont.

- D. In your experience what does God's grace look like? How was it sufficient at the time?
- E. Do you think it is important to God that we are weak and reliant on Him? Why or why not?
- F. What are some of the benefits of allowing God to be strong and relying on Him? Have you experienced any of these benefits?

### VI. **Community that is Accountable:**

Is there something you need to start or stop doing because of what you learned about suffering?

### VII. **Community that Prays:**

Spend a few minutes in praying about your next step.

### VIII. **Community that Looks Ahead:**

- A. The scriptures next week are II Timothy 3:16-17.
- B. If you missed Sunday's sermon, watch online at [www.lifewatercc.org](http://www.lifewatercc.org) before the next Life Group.
- C. Reflect on next week's questions during your five minutes of daily silence.

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## “Truth...”

# Is the Bible Reliable and Can It Be Trusted?

## II Timothy 3:16-17

### Lesson 3

#### I. **Purpose:**

- A. To help us understand why the Bible is reliable.
- B. To help us know what the purpose of the Bible is.
- C. To help us see that the Bible is the creditable authoritative Word of God.

#### II. **Community that Cares:**

- A. What is your next step and how are you doing with taking that step?
- B. How are you doing with your 5-5-5 this week?

#### III. **Community that Understands the Background:**

Have you ever wondered how you can know that the Bible can be trusted? Have you ever wondered which versions can be trusted and which ones cannot? Have you ever wondered why the Bible is so special? These are all good and appropriate questions.

The Bible was written according to Timothy under divine inspiration. But which scriptures was Paul writing about? In Jesus' day the Old Testament was already established. It was already accepted that the 39 books of the Old Testament made up the Old Testament. Even Jesus quoted from the Old Testament. By the 2<sup>nd</sup> century, the 27 New Testament books were already chosen and accepted by the church at the time. It was confirmed by counsels what was already accepted.

Virtually every ancient writing that has survived is a result of later copies. This is mostly due to what manuscripts were written on at the time. To preserve a manuscript, it would need to be copied every 50-100 years. Obviously the closer the copy was written to when the original manuscript was written, the more reliable it was. There are no original existing manuscripts of the Bible but there are around 24,000 copies with some being from as early as the 2<sup>nd</sup> century. If a variant could be found, it could be crosschecked by other

## Lesson 3 cont.

manuscripts. If a newer manuscript had a variant, then it could be crosschecked with an older manuscript. The ability to crosscheck manuscripts gives the ability to know that the teaching is the same as when it was first spoken. In final analysis, the manuscripts from the Bible have no major variants just minor grammatical errors and none of those errors change the meaning of the passage. The conclusion is that our scriptures are reliable and can be trusted.

### IV. Community that Learns:

- A. Review the points of the Pastor's message. What spoke to you, challenged you, or encouraged you in these points?
- B. Sermon outline: "Truth..." – Is the Bible Reliable and Can it be Trusted?

Three factors to consider that play into "The Bible is Reliable and Can be Trusted":

1. ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) scriptures are included in "all scripture"?  
II Timothy 3:16a
2. ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) is meant by "God breathed"? II Timothy 3:16b
3. ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) is it important? II Timothy 3:16c-17

### V. Community that Applies:

- A. Is it important to you that the Bible is true? Why or why not?
- B. Does it bother you that there are no original manuscripts available for the Bible? Why or why not?
- C. Which scriptures are inerrant?

## Lesson 3 cont.

- D. What is the difference between a translation of the Bible and a paraphrase of the Bible?
- E. What are some things you can do to check to make sure that the translation you are reading is accurate?
- F. How would you describe the inspiration of the Bible?
- G. Do you think the Bible should be absolutely obeyed? Why or why not?

### VI. **Community that is Accountable:**

Is there something you need to start or stop doing because of what you learned about the Bible?

### VII. **Community that Prays:**

Spend a few minutes praying about your next step.

### VIII. **Community that Looks Ahead:**

- A. The scriptures next week are John 14:6.
- B. If you missed Sunday's sermon, watch online at [www.lifewatercc.org](http://www.lifewatercc.org) before the next Life Group.
- C. Reflect on next week's questions during your five minutes of daily silence.

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**“Truth...”**  
**How Can Jesus be the Only Way?**  
**John 14:6**  
**Lesson 4**

**I. Purpose:**

- A. To help us understand why Jesus could make the claim of being the only way.
- B. To help us know the meaning behind this claim.
- C. To help us see the basis for Jesus' claim.

**II. Community that Cares:**

- A. What is your next step and how are you doing with taking that step?
- B. How are you doing with your 5-5-5 this week?

**III. Community that Understands the Background:**

Don't you think that the claim by Jesus as being the only way to God is a little arrogant? How could someone make a claim like this? Jesus seemed so unlikely to be the only way to God. He was a carpenter's son, not from a special religious family, and he was poor.

I hear this argument all the time. The claim of being the only way to God is in the midst of a three-fold claim. Jesus said that He was the only way, He was the only absolute truth, and He was the only eternal life. All other ways were imposters. All through the Old Testament we see God commanding His people to have only one God. That they only obey one truth. That they only believe in one life. So this claim was consistent with what the Jews believed.

But to say that Jesus was the way, truth, and life was one of the most controversial statements Jesus ever made and all gospel writers recorded it. This was the Messiah, God himself in the flesh, who made the claim that He was the only way to God. To find that the only way, the only truth, and the only life is through Jesus makes sense for God to claim.

## Lesson 4 cont.

### IV. Community that Learns:

A. Review the points of the Pastor's message. What spoke to you, challenged you, or encouraged you in these points?

B. Sermon outline: "Truth..." – Jesus is the Only Way

Three factors to consider that play into "Jesus is the Only Way":

1. Jesus is the only (\_\_\_\_\_) to the Father. John 14:6a

2. Jesus is the only (\_\_\_\_\_) truth. John 14:6b

3. Jesus is the only life that (\_\_\_\_\_) eternal life.  
John 14:6c

### V. Community that Applies:

A. Does it bother you that Jesus claimed that He was the only way, the only truth, and the only life? Why or why not?

B. How would you respond to someone who says, "There are many ways to God not just Jesus?"

C. Do you think that Jesus is prejudice because of His statement? Why or why not?

D. How would you respond to someone who says, "I think Jesus is exclusive and not accepting of other ways"?

## Lesson 4 cont.

- E. Why do you think that Jesus could claim that He was the only way to God?
  
- F. How would you explain that to someone who doesn't believe today?

### VI. **Community that is Accountable:**

Is there something you need to start or stop doing because of what you learned about the exclusive way to God?

### VII. **Community that Prays:**

Spend a few minutes praying about your next step.

### VIII. **Community that Looks Ahead:**

- A. The scriptures next week are Genesis 2:18, 20b-25.
- B. If you missed Sunday's sermon, watch online at [www.lifewatercc.org](http://www.lifewatercc.org) before the next Life Group.
- C. Reflect on next week's questions during your five minutes of daily silence.

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**“Truth...”**  
**Is Christianity/God Homophobic?**  
**Genesis 2:18, 20b-25**  
**Lesson 5**

**I. Purpose:**

- A. To help us understand why the Bible condemns homosexuality.
- B. To help us know why it is not a political argument.
- C. To help us see how God feels about sexual relationships.

**II. Community that Cares:**

- A. What is your next step and how are you doing with taking that step?
  
- B. How are you doing with your 5-5-5 this week?

**III. Community that Understands the Background:**

Aren't homosexuals born this way? Isn't a homosexual marriage acceptable to God? Isn't it wrong to tell someone that a homosexual lifestyle is wrong? Isn't that "hate" speech? How can God not be ok with homosexuals? Does the Bible really condemn homosexuality?

I get asked these questions all the time. There is so much misunderstanding about what the Bible says about homosexuality. Everything that is written in the Bible about homosexuality applies both to Christians and non-Christians. First, God created men and women so the man would leave his father and mother to be united with his wife according to Genesis 2. God created Adam out of the dust. God created Eve from a rib out of Adam. It was distinct and unique like our chromosomes are distinct and unique. Men and women had different roles but were partners. God created woman to be an appropriate partner because it wasn't good for Adam to be alone.

God used man's body to create a woman because it was a reminder of the oneness that men and women could experience in marriage. Adam, when he saw Eve, acknowledged that Eve was like him, "bone of my bones", and not like him, "taken out of man". They were one but not the same. God said His creation was very good.



## Lesson 5 cont.

But He also said that homosexuality was a distortion of His original plan. He called it detestable in Leviticus. There is no doubt that the Hebrew statement is literally talking about homosexuality. The word “detestable” in the Hebrew is one of the strongest words of condemnation in the entire language. It was such a serious violation that it was punishable by death according to Jewish law. People try to say that the words “lie with a man as one lies with a woman” is not talking about homosexuality but that simply is not true. Paul said in I Corinthians that men who have sex with men will not inherit the kingdom of God. He once again is speaking of homosexuality.

### IV. **Community that Learns:**

A. Review the points of the Pastor’s message. What spoke to you, challenged you, or encouraged you in these points?

B. Sermon outline: “Truth...” – Is Christianity/God Homophobic?

Three factors to consider that play into “Is Christianity Homophobic?”:

1. God originally (\_\_\_\_\_) a man to marry a woman.  
Genesis 2:18, 20b-25
2. God (\_\_\_\_\_) it detestable. Leviticus 18:22, 20:13
3. God (\_\_\_\_\_) it sin. Romans 1:24-26, I Corinthians 6:9;  
I Timothy 1:10.

### V. **Community that Applies:**

A. Is being born with a sexual attraction to the same sex a biblical justification for homosexuality? Why or why not?

## Lesson 5 cont.

- B. Why did God create a woman?
- C. Do you think that is still valid today? Why or why not?
- D. Why do you think God prohibits homosexual relationships?
- E. Why do you think God has a such a strong response to homosexuality?
- F. Why do you think God gave such a hard penalty for homosexuality?
- G. Do you think homosexuality is sin? Why or why not?

### VI. **Community that is Accountable:**

Is there something you need to start or stop doing because of what you learned about homosexuality?

### VII. **Community that Prays:**

Spend a few minutes praying about your next step.

### VIII. **Community that Looks Ahead:**

- A. The scriptures next week are Psalm 139:13-16.
- B. If you missed Sunday's sermon, watch online at [www.lifewatercc.org](http://www.lifewatercc.org) before the next Life Group.
- C. Reflect on next week's questions during your five minutes of daily silence.

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**“Truth...”**  
**Is Abortion Really Murder?**  
**Psalm 139:13-16**  
**Lesson 6**

**I. Purpose:**

- A. To help us understand that life begins at conception.
- B. To help us know that God is intimately involved in our creation.
- C. To help us see that life has an important purpose.

**II. Community that Cares:**

- A. What is your next step and how are you doing with taking that step?
  
- B. How are you doing with your 5-5-5 this week?

**III. Community that Understands the Background:**

The battle over abortion rights has been around since the Roe versus Wade decision happened in 1973. In 2022, the abortion debate has heated up again. There is probably no hotter subject on the political landscape. We have seen both sides aggressively battling each other for years. But what does the Bible say about abortion? What does God say about when life begins? How should Christians respond to this political debate?

The Bible teaches that life begins in the womb. It doesn't state it begins after birth or after so many weeks in the womb. The basic principle that the Bible gives is that life begins in the womb. Isaiah 44:24 says, "This is what the Lord says -- your Redeemer, who formed you in the womb: I am the Lord, who has made all things...". Also, in Exodus 21:22, "If two men who are fighting hit a pregnant woman and she gives birth prematurely...and there is serious injury, you are to take life for life...". There is no minimum time in the womb to consider the baby "life". According to Luke 1:41-44, when Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting her baby leaped in her womb.

God is very clear in His Word that God considers life to begin at conception. From a biblical perspective one cannot arrive at any

## Lesson 6 cont.

other conclusion. God has a plan for that life. God is positioning that person for His purposes. When we choose abortion, we are impacting God's ideas, plans, and purposes. So, if life begins at conception, then ending that life is murder.

### IV. **Community that Learns:**

A. Review the points of the Pastor's message. What spoke to you, challenged you, or encouraged you in these points?

B. Sermon outline: "Truth..." – Is Abortion Really Murder?

Three factors to consider that play into "Is Abortion Really Murder?":

1. Life begins at (\_\_\_\_\_). Psalm 139:13 & 16a
2. We are fearfully and wonderfully (\_\_\_\_\_). Psalm 139:14; Genesis 1:27; Psalm 8:4-5
3. Each life is (\_\_\_\_\_) prepared, planned, and positioned for God's purpose. Psalm 139:15-16; I Corinthians 3:16-17

### V. **Community that Applies:**

A. Is it so hard for people to believe that life begins at conception? Why or why not?

B. What is your biggest roadblock to believing that life begins at conception?

C. What amazes you the most about a baby's development in the womb?

## Lesson 6 cont.

- D. Do you believe that every conceived embryo has a purpose? Why or why not?
  
- E. Do you believe that our world will be missing something important for every conceived embryo that is aborted? Why or why not?
  
- F. Do you believe that God has allowed for a woman to become pregnant for a reason? Why or why not?
  
- G. What about rape or incest? Do you believe that changes God's mind about abortion? Why or why not?

### VI. **Community that is Accountable:**

Is there something you need to start or stop doing because of what you learned about abortion?

### VII. **Community that Prays:**

Spend a few minutes praying about your next step.

### VIII. **Community that Looks Ahead:**

- A. The scriptures next week are Luke 1:5-25.
- B. If you missed Sunday's sermon, watch online at [www.lifewatercc.org](http://www.lifewatercc.org) before the next Life Group.
- C. Reflect on next week's questions during your five minutes of daily silence.

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## Fill in the Blanks

### Lesson 1

1a authority

1b accuser

1c attacker

### Lesson 2

2a suffering

2b source

2c sufficient

2d satisfied

### Lesson 3

3a Which

3b What

3c Why

### Lesson 4

4a path

4b pure

4c produces

### Lesson 5

5a created

5b considers

5c calls

### Lesson 6

6a conception

6b created

6c carefully

## Prayer Requests

DATE	PRAYER REQUEST	ANSWER

### Prayer Requests

DATE	PRAYER REQUEST	ANSWER



**Prayer Requests**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>PRAYER REQUEST</b>	<b>ANSWER</b>

**Prayer Requests**

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**LIFEWATER**  
COMMUNITY CHURCH