

2014-10-19 Life Group  
**Words of Life – Speaking Truth**

STUDY & DISCUSSION 30-45 minutes

Open: Share an embarrassing moment in your life. Did not knowing the truth and/or suddenly having the truth revealed contribute to the embarrassing moment? Explain.

Read: Ephesians 4:14-16.

Observe: How does verse 14 describe the individual or the church where discipleship and speaking truth in love is not practiced?

Apply: Where do you see this kind of immaturity in the church today?

Interpret: Pastor Scott said that speaking the truth in love is how God communicates with us and that it is the only path to growth. Do you agree or disagree? Explain.

Apply: Our goal is to “speak truth in the most loving way possible.” Where are you more likely to sin: 1). Sharing the truth too bluntly and hurting people’s feelings? 2). Avoiding the truth because you don’t want to hurt someone’s feelings?

Apply: Where do you see the problems in your methodology? Where has it gone wrong?

Read: King David committed adultery with Bathsheba, secretly had her husband killed and then took Bathsheba as his wife. Read 2 Samuel 12:1-13 for what happened next.

Interpret: This may seem like an extreme example of speaking the truth, but the principles are the same. What do you think of Nathan’s approach to confrontation? Why do you think he told the story of the lamb? What would have been different if he started with the finger point of “You are the man”?

Interpret: Do you think anyone before Nathan had confronted David about this? Why or why not?

Interpret: From the story of David and Nathan, what can we learn about the need for loving confrontation? The method? The result?

Apply: Delivery matters! What unloving or unhelpful methods do people use when trying to communicate truth? What are some practical tips for wrapping truth up in love?

Apply: Truth matters! What reasons or excuses do people give for not speaking the truth? Are these valid? Why or why not?

Apply: Pastor Scott listed the following as necessary parts of speaking the truth in love. Which do you think is most important? Most difficult?

- A Strong Commitment to Building Others Up.
- Knowing the Difference between Truth and Opinion.
- Knowing the Heart of the Hearer.

Apply: Where or when do you most need to apply this lesson's principles?