

## **Following Jesus Study Guide – Stand for Truth**

**Main Idea:** Jesus was willing to confront hypocrisy among the religious leaders and his own disciples. He was willing to stand for truth even when it meant engaging in conflict in an honest, truthful, and loving manner.

**Living like Jesus:** We can imitate Jesus by standing for truth, even when it means engaging in conflict for the sake of Jesus and the gospel.

**Key Scriptures:** Here are some examples of how Jesus stood for truth:

- Jesus is the truth (John 1:14, 17; 8:31-32; 14:6; 18:37)
- In personal conversations with people (John 2:23-3:21; 4:5-42)
- When contending for God’s original purposes related to worship (Mark 11:15-17)
- When teaching about what it means to enter the kingdom of God (Matt. 13:3-23)
- When calling people to count the cost of following him (Luke 14:25-35)
- When teaching truth from God (Luke 4:16-21)
- In claiming to be the Bread of Life (John 6:22-71), the Good Shepherd (John 10:1-21), and the Light of the world (John 12:20-50)
- When affirming Peter’s confession and correcting Peter’s understanding of Jesus as the Messiah (Matt. 16:13-20; Mark 8:31-37)
- When claiming authority from God (Matt. 21:23-22:14)
- When promising to send the Spirit of truth (John 14-16)
- When faced with lies from Satan (Matt. 4:1-11; Luke 4:1-13; John 8:42-47)
- In conflict with the religious leaders related to healing (John 5:1-47; 9:1-41; Mark 3:1-6)
- In conflict with the religious leaders related to Sabbath practices (Matt. 12:1-8; Luke 14:1-24)
- In conflict with the religious leaders related to rituals (Luke 11:37-54)
- When comparing religious traditions with God’s Word (Matt. 5:21-48; 15:1-20)
- When warning against the misleading teachings of the religious leaders (Matt. 16:1-12)
- When denouncing hypocrisy (Matt. 23:1-39)

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. From the overview above, why do you think Jesus places such a high value on truth?
2. How does it affect your view of truth when you hear Jesus say, “I am the truth”?
3. How do you think grace and love relate to truth?
4. What happens to a person’s faith when they forfeit truth and drift exclusively toward what they consider to be grace and love?
5. How can conflict sometimes actually be spiritually healthy in the long run?
6. What can we learn from Jesus about how to stand for truth in conflict situations?