



## THE BIG IDEA

Jesus is truth.

## THE BIBLE

John 8:32, 14:1-7, 18:28-38; Psalm 25:5

### WHAT? *What are we talking about today?*

**STORY** | Tell a funny story about a time you got in trouble for lying.

- **PARENTS** – tell a funny story about a time you got in trouble for lying
- I'm not proud of this story, but I'm guessing you can all relate. Let's face it – we've all lied once or twice, and (I'm guessing) we've all been called out for our lies before too.

**VIDEO** | A Clip from Stranger Things (Season 3)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play some or all of [this clip](#) from Stranger Things (Season 3), where Mike lies to Eleven about why he can't see her that day. **NOTE: At 0:47, Mike mouths an inappropriate word, so we suggest either playing the clip after that moment or editing the clip to black out that one second of video.**

**POLL** | What would you do?

- Let's say you get caught in a lie. Your friend confronts you like Eleven confronted Mike. What would you do?
  - Stick with the original story.
  - Make up a brand new story and hope this one actually works.
  - Tell the truth – you're terrible at lying.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Take a poll of your students' responses to the question. You could use a service like [polleverywhere.com](#) to display their responses on-screen, or you could do this the good old fashioned way – with raised hands or applause.

**DISCUSSION**

- How would you define "truth"?
- How would you define "freedom"?



### **SO WHAT?** *Why does it matter to God and to us?*

#### **SCRIPTURE** | John 14:1–7

- This isn't the first time Jesus made this claim. Just a few chapters earlier, Jesus said something similar to His disciples.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Read John 14:1-7 together.*
- Jesus' friends were upset because Jesus was starting to anger people wherever they went, and His bold and controversial teachings were putting their lives at risk.
- To comfort them and let them know that He had a plan, no matter what happened next, Jesus said He would be going to His Father's house to prepare a place for them — a place where God is, and where they're invited to be too!
- Jesus' friends seem a little stumped. Since they don't know exactly where Jesus is going, how can they possibly know how to get there? What's the address? Can they have directions? What time should they get there?
- Jesus assures them that they do actually know the way because they know Him. He's the one true way to God!

#### **DISCUSSION**

- What do you think it means that Jesus is the truth?
- On a scale of 1-5, how difficult is it for you to believe that Jesus is the truth?

#### **QUESTION** | Why was Jesus' claim controversial?

- Jesus made a pretty bold claim in John 14:6. He said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."
- Jesus' claim here makes a lot of people uncomfortable. Why do you think Jesus' claim is so controversial?
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Give a few students a chance to respond.*

### **NOW WHAT?** *What does God want us to do about it?*

#### **DISCUSSION**

- Do you think it's possible to argue someone into believing that Jesus is truth? Why or why not?
- What can we do about our own (or other people's) questions or objections that Jesus is truth?



### SCRIPTURE | John 8:32

- Maybe you're thinking, "Okay, fine. Jesus is truth. But what does that mean for me? Why does this matter?" There's one more moment from the book of John I want to look at before we close.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Read John 8:32 together.*
- When we know Jesus, we know truth, and His truth sets us free. His truth sets us free . . .
  - From the power of sin and death.
  - From believing lies about God, ourselves, or others.
  - From anger, guilt, shame, fear, brokenness, unforgiveness, or anything else that keeps us captive.
- Jesus is truth, and His truth sets us free.
- What does being free mean to you?

### RESPONSE | I Am Free

- We're going to end today by writing another statement. This week, we're going to focus on how the truth of Jesus can set us free from whatever has power over us.
  - *Give at least one strip of paper to each student, along with a pen. On each strip of paper, ask students to write one thing Jesus sets us free from. This could be an example from their lives, an example from the life of someone they know, or a hypothetical example.*
  - *While students write, play some [instrumental music](#). When they've finished writing, tell them to bring their strips of paper to the front.*
  - *Using tape, connect each strip of paper into a paper chain, reading some of the responses out loud as you do.*
  - *When your chain is complete, dispose of the paper in some way.*
- There is so much that the truth of Jesus frees us from! Whether it's sin we've committed, lies we've believed, or brokenness that's holding us captive, the truth of Jesus can set us free.

### DISCUSSION

- What's one way today's conversation has changed or challenged you?
- Read Psalm 25:5. This week, how can we let God's truth guide us "all day long"?