



DNA Strand #3: Truth

Ice-Breaker Question

*“True Biblical orthodoxy is **always** full of spiritual life, full of missionary zeal, full of unfeigned helpful, compassionate love, for it is the work of the Holy Spirit in the hearts of His believing children.” – Theodore Engelder.*

Go around the circle and share one person from my past or present life who displays at least one of these behaviors. What is the influence of this person on me?

Watch VIDEO #5: TRUTH

NOTE: Rev. Newman moves quickly in this particular video, and it could be helpful to have a paper and pen handy -- write down any “AHAs” and other thoughts while you are watching the video so that you remember to share them later. Pause the video for discussion after 11:38 of playback.

PAUSE video when noted on the screen.

1. Take time to discuss together:
 - a. What’s something that jumped out to me from what Rev. Newman shared?
 - b. (Then, answer Rev. Newman’s questions):



- i. In what ways might we help the people in the Great Northwest become open to hearing the truth of the Gospel?
- ii. What in our own church culture might be getting in the way of propagating God's Gospel truth?

Resume video to end.

After the VIDEO (Digging In)

Rev. Newman says the beauty of our church body is its biblical confessional focus and foundations. We offer the gift of grace. Go around the circle, and share the story of what originally drew me into the Lutheran Church body.

2. Jesus says, *"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."* – *John 14:6*. Go around the circle and share an example about how God's beautiful truth in Jesus has changed someone's life (perhaps mine?).
3. How do hearing these stories help us as we look for opportunities within our community?

Getting Traction in Scripture

- *Read Matthew 25:14-30 out loud together.*
- What do I think Jesus wants us to understand through His parable of the talents and servants?
- You may have heard the "Parable of the Talents" before. How does it relate to everything we have studied so far about Gospel DNA?
- What is scary about investing in a new generation?
- How can we steward the resources we have and invest in a new generation? (What would this look like if we handed the "baton of leadership" off to a new generation?)



Last Month's Action Step

Last month you were challenged to work with other churches (LCMS and non-LCMS) in the community that are also “traditionally aggressive” in order to share, pay forward, or give a taste of the Good News. You were encouraged to create a list of one item, person, or group to connect with in order to bring this action step to life. ***How did that go?*** What continues to need our attention?

Monthly Action Step

Continue to work on the list from last month. Add one more item, person, or group to connect with.

Closing Action and Prayer

God has given us a treasure, and in the treasure is a great promise. He calls us to put the Word to work. The definition of “faithful,” according to the master, is doing something with the treasure of the promises of God. *Not just protecting or preserving, but propagating it – putting it to work.* Go around the circle, pray about specific ways we can put this treasure to work. If someone comes to mind who needs Jesus as the Truth in his or her life, pray specifically for that person!

BONUS: Watch “Bonus Video 3: Education Department” in the Gospel DNA Toolkit folder in the Resources section of nowlcms.org. How might our congregation use some of the opportunities and initiatives mentioned?





GOSPEL DNA: TRUTH

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT **Leadership Team Guide**

“Truth”

This additional study accompanies the small group discussion guide. It is designed for leadership teams as a process to discuss a strategic ministry plan connected to their mission and local community. The Leadership Team Guide is a focused group process that leads to specific action steps with progress checks at future meetings.

Note: *At this stage of meeting regularly as leaders (five months), effectiveness has to do with two leadership practices: listening to one another carefully, and consistently following through on goals. This guide is built “lean” so that, as you move forward together, your leadership team can focus on discussion and meaningful action on items that you identify.*

DISCUSS/EVALUATE

- 1. In his book, Newman writes that the Gospel DNA marker of truth “though jarring, confronting, and exposing, while at the same time being comforting, constructing, and encouraging – advances God’s mission by being spoken in love” (p. 125). Where do we see evidence of this in our congregation?**
- 2. Share what might be challenging about this description of truth. Does it make us think or act differently? Why or why not?**
- 3. Newman says “*the very foundation of our confessions is planting forward.*” What does this mean for our leadership team as we plan and think strategically? How does it shape our actions?**
- 4. In the Leadership Team Guide for the last study, we wrote down actions to be carried out by our team before meeting again (p.5, question 7). How did that go? What new leaders did we include as a result?**



PLAN

5. What takeaways from this month's study on Truth can we implement in our existing ministry plan going forward?

IMPLEMENT

6. Don't move on without identifying the answers to the next four questions:
 - a. Return to the evaluation discussion (started by our answers to question 4 above). What actions as a result of that discussion need to be carried out by our team before our next meeting?
 - b. Who will make this happen?
 - c. How can we include more leaders in this activity?
 - d. When will we meet next?

PRAY

(This activity mirrors the prayer in the previous section). If you have not done so, use that section as a guide. Include, additionally, specific prayer asking God to provide wisdom and courage as you seek to “plant forward” the Good News of Jesus Christ.

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