**Table Talk**

**Sermon Series: God Selfie – Truth and Steadfast Love**

**September 15, 2019**

**Introduction (10 min)**

Welcome everyone to your Table Talk small group. Watch the introductory video and share the story below, then open up the discussion with the questions provided.

**Table Talk Video: God Selfie – Truth and Steadfast Love**

“God is not in the business of hiding his will from his children.” Those words from my pastor rang in my ears as Ashley and I sat in the front seat of our car, trying to find a way to Texas.

I had done phone interviews with a church board and District Superintendent and quickly fell in love with the people of this small church in Texas. Ashley and I were excited, but desperately wanted to know for sure if this was where God was calling us. So my pastor’s familiar words played in my mind. “God is not in the business of hiding his will from his children. God will move heaven and earth if necessary to make his will known to those who seek him.”

Ashley and I began to pray, “Lord, we already love these people. You know if we go we are going to say yes to this call. So show us now if we are supposed to go or not.”

We checked in at the airport 45 minutes before our flight was scheduled to take off. At the kiosk, we tried to print our boarding passes but as soon as we hit print everything froze. We tried repeatedly with no luck.

“There is nothing I can do. You’ll have to wait in line at customer service,” was the attendant’s only response as she pointed down the corridor to a line with over 100 people in it. We explained that we only had 45 minutes. She pointed again to the line. So we waited. And waited. Until we waved at our flight as it taxied away.

On to plan B. We went to a rental car company. They were completely out of cars. Really. Everything was rented or reserved. So we went to another. To our amazement, they were completely out of cars as well. They offered to call other rental companies in the area for us. Everyone returned the same story, “Nothing available.” We expanded to a 45 minute radius of Kansas City. No rentals available.

After wasting hours at the airport and rental facilities, we considered just driving our worn out old car. We calculated the time and figured if we drove straight through with only stopping for gas, we might make it to the interview albeit 30 minutes late.

We sat there frustrated, confused, and angry. Those words kept rolling around in my mind, “God will move heaven and earth to reveal his will, he is not in the business of hiding his will from his children.” I mentioned it to Ashley as our options dwindled.

Her face lit up - a welcome change for the afternoon. “How stubborn are we going to be?” she said. “God already moved a plane, a hundred people, and a few hundred cars. What else does he need to move before we pay attention? This is exactly what we prayed for. I think He has made it pretty clear what his will is, it’s just not what we were hoping for.” Her smile and laughter was a sign of God’s grace. He reminded us in that moment that He is Truth. He is Faithfulness. He is Trustworthy. He is the God who moves heaven and earth (and occasionally transportation) to reveal his will.

-Pastor Reggie

1. Have you ever seen God “move heaven and earth” to make sure you knew his will?

**Prayer (3 minutes)**

Pray for God to reveal his truth and steadfast love through his Word and through the interactions in your group.

**Digging In (18 minutes)**

**Read Exodus 34:6-7**

1. We have read these verses several times over the last few weeks. Does anything new jump out at you about God’s selfie revealing his character?
2. There are many translations of the phrase “abounding in… truth, keeping mercy to thousands.” Read a few different translations (use a Bible app on your phone if needed) and talk about the differences you see.
3. How do these different translations help you understand more clearly who God is claiming to be in these phrases?

**Read Exodus 32:1; Romans 1:25**

1. In general, people have a bad track record believing in God’s trustworthiness. What prompted their lack of trust in this case? Was it a good reason?
2. Can the actions of a God-follower really effect whether or not others see God as trustworthy?

**Read John 8:31-32; 14:6**

1. We already learned that the truth can sanctify us. What else does Jesus claim the truth can do for us?
2. God’s selfie tells us that he is truth. Who does Jesus claim to be in 14:6?
3. Where can we clearly see and experience the character of God in a way that transforms our lives from bondage to freedom?

**Digging Out (12 minutes)**

**Read John 17:17**

1. Not only is God true, he also wants us to experience his truth. How can we readily experience the truth of God?
2. What does this verse say his truth can accomplish in our lives?
3. To sanctify or make holy is something that only God do because only he is intrinsically holy. So if the truth can make us holy, than what is truth?

**Read John 18:37-38**

1. Moses had to convince slaves that freedom was possible. Jesus had to reveal to supposedly free men that they were still slaves. What is Pilate a slave to in this passage?
2. When we are on the side of truth, whose side are we really on? More importantly, are we listening and living according to his voice?

**Taking It Home (7 minutes)**

After discussing the Bible verses above, consider the following personal challenge.

1. If God is truth then he is trustworthy and consistent. Do you struggle to believe this image of God or do you readily embrace it? What experiences have contributed to your belief?
2. Have your actions as a Christian ever given someone reason to doubt God’s trustworthiness? If so, how can you correct that?
3. If God is truth, keeping mercy for generations to come, do you need to adjust your attitude toward God and the way you speak to him?

**Wrapping Up (2 minutes)**

To the best of your ability, summarize the main points of your group’s discussion and help them make meaningful connections with the scriptures.

**Scripture Challenge (5 minutes)**

Take time to practice memorizing John 8:31-32. Write the verses down and recite it a few times out loud as a group. There is freedom in knowing that God is trustworthy and true!

**Prayer (3 minutes)**

Pray that God would reveal himself as trustworthy and true in your life and in the lives of those who are watching your witness.