



SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

January 18, 2026 | Essentials (week 1)



GROWING CLOSER TOGETHER

1. What is a folk myth or common tale you believed when you were younger?
2. When you hear the word *truth*, do you think of: **facts, sincerity, morality, or something else?**



MESSAGE REFLECTION

1. Share something from the service or message that stood out, challenged or encouraged you.
2. Read **John 18:28-38** together. What jumps out at you from this passage?
3. What is the definition of truth?
4. In verse 37, Jesus said he came into the world “...to testify to the truth.” What makes this statement significant?
5. Why is the idea that all religions and beliefs are basically the same wrong?
6. How is the New Testament unique among other religious writings when it comes to discerning true revelation from God?
7. Is it difficult for you to identify what beliefs are dogma, doctrine or adiaphora? Why or why not?
8. Why do essential beliefs about the Christian faith matter?



GOING DEEPER

READ **John 14:6** together.

1. How does Jesus defining himself as “the truth” differ from the idea that truth is just personal or cultural?
2. Why do you think people—like Pilate in John 18—are often skeptical that truth can really be known?

READ **1 Corinthians 15:1-4** together.

3. What beliefs are described in this passage as being “of first importance”? What makes these essential rather than optional?
4. What is the danger when Christians treat non-essential issues as if they were essential doctrines and vice versa?

READ **Romans 14:1** together.

5. What are some current examples of “disputable matters” that Christians often argue over?
6. How can a church hold firmly to essential truths while still showing grace and unity over secondary issues?



YOUR NEXT STEP

1. Make a list of essential beliefs in your faith that you are willing to suffer or die for.

Question to ponder: How does believing that truth corresponds to reality change how you live, speak, and witness in the world?



PRAYING TOGETHER

Take time to share burdens and pray for one another.