

SEASON 3



# Truth with Handles

*the conversation*

REFLECTION GUIDE

***Episode 6: Moral Relativism***



walking with purpose

## Episode 6: Moral Relativism

Moral relativism is the idea that there is no such thing as right or wrong, but that morality is relative to individual circumstances, beliefs, cultures, and time periods. It relegates truth to individual feelings and opinions instead of claiming there is external truth that exists outside of individuals and cultures to which we can conform our standards and morals. At first, moral relativism sounds nice because it keeps us polite. It is the culture of “you do you.” However, that politeness doesn’t last long as the consequences of ignoring external truth start to play out. Pope Benedict XIV said, “We are moving toward a dictatorship of relativism which does not recognize anything as for certain and which has as its highest goal one’s own ego and one’s own desires.”<sup>1</sup>

**Key Verse:** “Follow the pattern of the sound words which you have heard from me, in the faith and love which are in Christ Jesus; guard the truth that has been entrusted to you by the Holy Spirit who dwells within us” (2 Timothy 1:13–14).

1. Where do you see moral relativism in our culture? Do you see the consequences of everyone having a unique “truth”? What are those consequences? Are they good or bad? Take a moment to write about it.
  
2. Guarding the truth is twofold:
  - a.
  
  - b.
  
3. Truth is a \_\_\_\_\_.

How do you feel about the idea that there is one truth and that truth is found in Jesus? Are you comfortable or uncomfortable with that thought? Why or why not?

4. We cannot believe what we do not \_\_\_\_\_.

How do you engage with people who disagree with you? Do you hide from them and avoid hard topics altogether? Do you argue, or do you invite? How can you joyfully invite someone to learn about the truth you have found in Christianity?

<sup>1</sup> Pope Benedict XVI, “Homily of His Eminence Card. Joseph Ratzinger Dean of the College of Cardinals” The Vatican. April 18, 2005. [https://www.vatican.va/gp11/documents/homily-pro-eligendo-pontifice\\_20050418\\_en.html](https://www.vatican.va/gp11/documents/homily-pro-eligendo-pontifice_20050418_en.html)

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5. God is not a \_\_\_\_\_. He is a \_\_\_\_\_.

Do you believe that God is real because you believe in Him? Do you think He is real even if people do not believe in Him and follow His ways? How does your understanding of God inform how you think of truth in society? Take a moment to reflect.

6. **John 14:6** "Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by me.'"

Three things we want in our lives:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

7. **John 8:44** "You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and has nothing to do with the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks according to his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies."

If you want to decipher truth from lies, it is important that you take popular cultural ideas, hold them up to the light, and compare them to what you know to be true in the gospel. Take a moment and think of something that is popular right now in our culture. What is it? Why is it popular? What does it promise? Do those promises measure up to the message of the gospel? Where is the truth? Where are the lies?

Notes:

*Missed the  
episode?  
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