NELA YOUTH
EST 2020

May 2025

TRUTH IN LOVE

When we speak the truth, even to the youngest children, we are equipping them with a solid foundation for their lives. It can be tempting to soften our words or to avoid uncomfortable conversations for the sake of maintaining peace or protecting feelings. However, **Proverbs 12:22 reminds us, "Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord, but those who act faithfully are His delight."** Teaching children to understand and embrace truth helps them navigate a world that often promotes lies and confusion.

The truth is not subjective; it is grounded in God's Word. To teach our children what truth is means to show them how our actions align with the teachings of Scripture. If we fail to speak honestly about sin and its consequences, we risk allowing them to grow up with a distorted view of reality—one that could lead them away from the very path God desires for them. While it is crucial to speak the truth, it is equally important to communicate this truth with love. When confronting youth who are caught in sinful patterns, we must stand firm in our beliefs while extending grace and compassion. Ephesians 4:15 highlights that speaking the truth in love is essential for growth—both for ourselves and those we influence.

Recently, I have encountered youth engaging in behaviors that contradict God's Word. I have made it clear where I stand—unapologetically affirming the truth of Scripture while maintaining a loving demeanor. This can be a challenging balance to strike, but it is necessary. True love does not condone sinful behavior; instead, it seeks to guide others back to the truth that leads to life.

Being honest with others about their actions can be uncomfortable, especially when it involves confronting sin. However, we must remember that our feelings should not dictate our commitment to truth. As followers of Christ, we are called to a higher standard. The Lord emphasizes the importance of standing firm in our beliefs, even when it is difficult.

When we address sin with honesty, we also offer an opportunity for repentance and healing. We show love by pointing others to the hope found in Christ, who offers forgiveness and transformation. Speaking truthfully about sin can serve as a catalyst for change, inviting individuals to seek God's grace and to realign their lives with His will.

Are you willing to be uncomfortable to speak truth in love? Andrea G. Jones

HIGHLIGHTS

- In April, we explored John 3:16 in detail, a verse we often overlook. We discussed the significance of Jesus' actions and the moment when Mary anointed Him with a costly fragrance. To help the kids connect with this experience, we used Spikenard to give them a sense of the aroma that Jesus likely carried.
- Congrats to team Holy Spirit for be the overall games champion!
- We had signups for our upcoming BIBLE CREATIVE COMPETITION to be held on May 10. Each child can choose any Bible character and create around that in song, poem, speech, skit, etc.

HAPPY MAY BIRTHDAY

KK, Dekedia, Jaylen, Caiden, Bryson, Willow, Jonmeshia, Lele

PRAYER: *Heavenly Father, I am grateful for the gift of Your truth and the profound impact it has on my life. Grant me the courage and steadfastness to speak truthfully, particularly to the younger generation. May I always express myself with love, offering grace even while addressing sin. Teach me to harmonize truth and love, so that I may reflect Your character in all my interactions. Empower me to lead others toward a deeper comprehension of Your Word and the freedom that comes from living in alignment with Your truth. All glory, power, and dominion are Yours! Amen.*

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- PRAYER FOR THE KIDS
- Volunteer at our monthly outreach meetings
- Pizza (10-12) donation for our 1st Sat. outreach
- Financial donations
- NELA YOUTH BIGGEST NEED: 15 passenger van to transport kids

Our mission is to inspire young individuals to recognize and embrace their God-given potential while fulfilling their divine purpose. We are dedicated to helping them uncover their identity in Christ and tap into the greatness within themselves. This is accomplished through building meaningful relationships and guiding them to understand the essence of Christ's heart.

NELAYOUTH.ORG

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