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TRUTH TOLD: *Faith, History, and the Black Experience*

John 8:32 – *“And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”*

The Twisting of the Truth

Theme: *How lies distort history, faith, and identity*

Key Scriptures: *Genesis 3:1–5; John 8:44; 2 Corinthians 4:3–4*

(Genesis 3:1–5)

The Fall

3 Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden’?”

²The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, ³but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’ ”

⁴“You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman. ⁵“For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

(John 8:44) You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

(2 Corinthians 4:3–4) And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing.

⁴The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

Teaching Focus

- The enemy rarely erases truth, he twists it.
- Scripture was misused to justify slavery and oppression.
- Christianity was weaponized instead of taught in fullness.

Truths

- The Bible was not the problem, the distortion was.
- Lies were used to control behavior and suppress identity.
- Twisted truth leads to spiritual and historical blindness.

👉 *When truth is twisted, people suffer, but when truth is revealed, people rise.*

Discussion Questions

1. How was scripture misused during slavery?
2. What lies are still believed today?

3. How does truth bring freedom?

Declaration

"I reject the lie, I embrace the truth, and I walk in freedom."

"Stolen Identity, God-Given Worth"

Theme: *Reclaiming identity through God's truth*

Key Scriptures: Psalm 139:13–16; Genesis 1:26–27

(Psalm 139:13–16) For you created my inmost being you knit me together in my mother's womb. ¹⁴ I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. ¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. ¹⁶ Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

(Genesis 1:26–27) Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." ²⁷ So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

Teaching Focus

- Black identity was stripped, renamed, and devalued.
- History taught us inferiority.
- God never confused our value, even when society did.

Truths

- Black people are made in God's image.
- Our history did not begin in chains.
- Identity comes from God, not oppression.

Main Point

 *You are not who history tried to make you; you are who God says you are.*

Discussion Questions

1. How does knowing you're made in God's image change self-view?
2. What identity lies need to be unlearned?
3. How do we pass truth to the next generation?

Declaration

"My identity is rooted in God, not history's trauma."

"Faith That Sustained Us"

Theme: How faith carried Black people through oppression

Key Scriptures: Exodus 3:7–8; Hebrews 11:1; Psalm 34:19

(Exodus 3:7–8) The Lord said, "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. ⁸So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites.

(Hebrews 11:1) Faith in Action

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

Teaching Focus

- Faith wasn't a weakness, it was survival.
- Spirituals carried coded messages of hope and escape.
- God sustained his people through unspeakable suffering.

Truths

- God hears the cries of the oppressed.

- Faith produced resilience, not passivity.
- Worship became resistance.

Main Point

👉 *What was meant to break us became what sustained us.*

Discussion Questions

1. How did faith function as resistance?
2. What role does worship play in struggle today?
3. How do we keep faith alive in hard seasons?

Declaration

"The same God who sustained them sustains me."

"Restoring the Truth, Rebuilding the Future"

Theme: Walking forward healed, informed, and empowered

Key Scriptures: Isaiah 61:1–4; Joel 2:25; Micah 6:8

(Isaiah 61:1–4) The Year of the Lord's Favor

61 The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, ² to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, ³ and provide for those who grieve in Zion to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendor. ⁴ They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated; they will renew the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations.

Teaching Focus

- God doesn't just expose lies; he restores what was lost.
- Healing generational wounds require truth and action.

- We are called to rebuild, teach, and lead differently.

Truths

- God restores stolen years.
- Truth empowers responsibility.
- The future is shaped by informed believers.

Main Point

👉 *We don't just survive history—we steward the future.*

Discussion Questions

1. What does restoration look like today?
2. How do we honor history while moving forward?
3. What is our responsibility as believers?

Final Declaration

"We know the truth, we live healed, and we build boldly.