**Discussion Guide for Community Groups**

**Living for Christ in a Secular World – Truth**

**Icebreakers:**

1. How would you feel about surrounding yourself with friends who lie to you?
2. How would you define the idea of a “white lie?” (Is a white lie a lie?)
3. When do you think that the use of hyperbole crosses the line and becomes a lie? (Is there a proper use for hyperbole?)

**Read the following passage: John 17:9-23 (NKJV)** 9  I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours. 10  And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them. 11  Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We *are.* 12  While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. 13  But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves. 14  I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. 15  I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. 16  They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. 17  Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. 18  As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. 19  And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth. 20  "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; 21  that they all may be one, as You, Father, *are* in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. 22  And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: 23  I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.

**Background:** *Jesus has just shared His last supper with His disciples. Judas is already in the process of betraying Jesus to the Jewish Leaders. Jesus takes His disciples into the Garden of Gethsemane to “watch” and pray with Him. In a matter of a few hours, Jesus will be arrested and put on trial. In the meantime, Jesus is praying for His disciples.*

**Verses 9-12:**  ***I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours. And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them.  Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are. While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled.***

1. What do you think Jesus meant when He said, “I am glorified in them?” (The “them” He is referring to would include all followers of Christ)
2. It sounds as if the actions of Judas were preordained; Do you think Judas would have been restored if he had turned back to Christ?
3. What is it about the “world” that makes it so challenging to live for Christ?

**Verse 13-19:** ***But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves. 14  I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. 15  I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. 16  They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. 17  Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. 18  As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. 19  And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth.***

1. What do you think Jesus was referring to when He prayed, “I have given them Your word?”
2. Jesus says that “we” are not of this world, so what does it mean to be “in” the world, but not “of” the world? (What’s the difference?)
3. Jesus referred to the concept of sanctification. (What does it mean to be sanctified?)
4. How does the truth actually sanctify us? (How important is the truth in the formation of our walk with Christ?)

**Verses 20-23:** ***"I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; 21  that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. 22  And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: 23  I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.***

1. Jesus prayed for the future disciples that would come to faith through the teaching of the Apostle. How has your life been impacted by “word” of the Apostles?
2. How can we become “one” as Christ and the Father are one?

**Wrap-up: 2 Corinthians 10:4-5 (NKJV)** 4  For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, 5  casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.

* *Not all ideas are equal. How can we effectively fight for the truth and values of our faith and without becoming carnal?*
* *How can we bring the strongholds, arguments and the vain thoughts of the world into submission to Christ?*