

RELATIONSHIP SKILLS 101
Tell People the Truth, Part Two

“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.” John 1:14

A. The Big Idea: If Jesus told people the truth, so should we.

- The First Truth-Telling Strategy: Tell people the truth about what they **can become**.
- The Second Truth-Telling Strategy: Help people face things in their lives that are **sinful** and **destructive**.

B. Jesus pointed out **sin** and called people to **change**.

- Jesus confronts the Twelve.

“Also a dispute arose among them as to which of them was considered to be greatest. Jesus said to them, “The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who exercise authority over them call themselves Benefactors. But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves.” Luke 22:24-26

- Jesus confronts Peter

“From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life. Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. “Never, Lord!” he said. “This shall never happen to you!” Jesus turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men.” Matt 16:21-23

C. How to tell the truth about sin and call people to change.

1. Unless you are willing to **be confronted** with the truth, don’t be quick to confront.

“Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.” Matthew 7:3-5

2. Prayerfully **discern** whether you need to confront something in someone’s life.

- Make sure that the issue is **genuinely** sinful and destructive, not just a **difference** in personality or opinion.
- Make sure it is **sizable** enough to be worth confronting.
- Make sure your **motive** is love for the person.

“Speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ.” Ephesians 4:15

3. When you confront someone...

- Be thoughtful of the **timing**.
- Start **gently**.
“How’s that working for you?”

“Is this who you want to be?”

- If necessary, clobber them with a 2x4.
 - Balance your truth-telling with the grace of acceptance.
 - Always show them a picture of what they can become by making a change.
4. Be quick to accept and slow to confront.

The Bottom Line Challenge: Use timely confrontation of sin as a way to help others grow to become what God wants them to be.

The Ride Home Question: Share a story of someone confronting sin in your life. How well did they do it?

Study Questions:

1. In the message we talked about the need to confront sin as a way of speaking the truth to people around us. Answer the following:
 - How willing are you to do that? If you are willing to do it, why are you? If you are not, why not?
 - Share an example of a time when the confrontation of sin went poorly. Why did it not work?
 - Share an example of a time when the confrontation went well. Why did it work?
2. Read the two stories of Jesus confronting sin as they are listed under letter B in the outline. What things strike you about the way Jesus confronted sin?
3. Read Matthew 7:3-5. What does it teach you about confrontation?
4. Read through the things listed under C2. How do these things help you decide whether you actually need to confront the other person? Give an example.
5. Read through the things listed under C3 and answer the following:
 - Why is timing important?
 - Do you agree that you need to start gently? What are some examples of starting gently that seem to work?
 - Do you agree that sometimes you need to “clobber” someone? How can you know if you are at this point?
 - Why is it important to balance confrontation with the grace of acceptance?
 - Why is it important to hold up the picture of what the change will help them become?
6. What is the most important thing you learned through this message and discussion?