

Sabbath School Panel — Second Quarter 2026

Lesson 4 (Tuesday)

The Bible Truth

Framing the Issue

This lesson references a theological movement that gained traction in the **1960s**, often described as an attempt to *adopt* or *redefine* theology.

To understand what was happening, historical context matters.

Historical Backdrop: Post–World War II Skepticism

After World War II, the world was left reeling:

- Widespread atrocities
- Mass death and suffering
- Profound moral failure on a global scale

By the **1960s**, the children who had lived through the war were now adults. Many were asking:

Where was God?

What does God even mean after all of this?

In that climate, God began to be discussed not as a personal, self-revealing Being, but as:

- a **symbol of human values**
- a **projection of human consciousness**

This thinking aligns closely with **existentialism**.

Existentialism and the Redefinition of Truth

Existentialism argues:

- You **exist first**
- There is **no inherent meaning**
- You decide what meaning—and even what *God*—is for you

At first glance, this may sound liberating. But it carries a serious problem.

If we define God:

- then we define truth
- and truth becomes dependent on our current moral state

Human history does not give us much confidence in humanity's ability to define morality consistently or rightly.

The Limits of Human Authority

Even science, valuable as it is, cannot serve as the *ultimate* definition of truth.

Science is based on:

- empirical observation
- human interpretation of data

That means science depends on **what we are able to observe**, and observation is not always sufficient.

The Flat Earth Illustration

A simple illustration makes this clear:

- To casual observation, the earth appears flat
- Without broader knowledge or perspective, one might conclude it *is* flat

Truth required a **higher vantage point**.

Likewise, when it comes to God:

Human perspective alone is not enough.

Pilate's Question

John 18:38 — Pilate asks:

“What is truth?”

This is the existential question of every age.

But Scripture does not leave it unanswered.

Scripture's Answer: Truth Is Personal

John 14:5–6 — Jesus says:

“I am the way, the truth, and the life.”

Truth is not merely a concept. Truth is a **Person**.

Truth and the Word

The Bible builds this theme consistently:

- **John 17:17** — *“Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.”*
- **Revelation 19:11–13** — Christ is identified as *“The Word of God.”*

Putting these together:

- Jesus is **truth**
 - Jesus is **the Word**
 - Therefore, **the Word is truth**
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The Authority Behind the Word

1 Thessalonians 2:13 affirms that the Word of God is not merely human teaching, but divine revelation—received *“not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God.”*

Truth, then, is not:

- culturally negotiated
- morally constructed
- or personally customized

Truth is **revealed**.

Final Conclusion

For those who are genuinely seeking truth:

- God is not defined by humanity
- Truth is not created by consensus
- Meaning is not decided by feeling

God is truth.

And because God is truth:

The Word of God is truth—backed by the authority of God Himself.

This is not theology at the mercy of human opinion.

This is truth that stands above us—and invites us to know it.