SESSION 1:
Introduction
Today's Question: Why is God's truth essential for us?

1. God's Truth __________________ Us in a ______________________________

   "In you, LORD my God, I put my trust. I trust in you; do not let me be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me." Psalm 25:1-2

   "No one who hopes in you will ever be put to shame, but shame will come on those who are treacherous without cause." Psalm 25:3

2. God's Truth __________________ Us through ____________________________

   "Show me your ways, LORD, teach me your paths. Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long.” Psalm 25:4-5

   "Remember, LORD, your great mercy and love, for they are from of old. Do not remember the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways; according to your love remember me, for you, LORD, are good.” Psalm 25:6-7

   "For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge.” Psalm 51:3-4

   “Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice. Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.” Psalm 51:7-9

3. God's Truth __________________ Us to ____________________________

   “Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in his ways. He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way.” Psalm 25:8-9

   “Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.” Romans 12:1-2

   "All the ways of the LORD are loving and faithful toward those who keep the demands of his covenant. For the sake of your name, LORD, forgive my iniquity, though it is great.” Psalm 25:10-11

Next Steps:

Connect with someone in our 10-week journey through these Essential Truths. Check out bethanychurch.com for connecting options.
Bethany Be One Essentials

Our Be One Essentials offer a clear guided pathway toward becoming deeper disciples of Jesus. These Essentials are rooted in scripture and have proven over the centuries to be powerful catalysts to spiritual growth. Through videos, classes, and other means, our goal is to have each disciple grounded in these three Be One Essentials. They are:

- Essential Truths
- Essential Disciplines
- Essential Engagements

What follows is a brief description of each of these essentials.

1. Essential Truths

Just as plumbers, doctors, or cooks need to know certain foundational truths before they can begin their practice, so also disciples of Jesus must have at least a basic grasp of certain fundamentals. These truths can always be explored in more detail, which in turn, can help us to grow spiritually at even deeper levels.

By reading the scriptures and by observing a long tradition of faithful disciples, we have identified five basic questions that every Christian should be able to answer with clarity. If we can grasp these five truths, we will have a firm foundation to begin further exploration. These five truths are:

- Who is God?
- Who is Jesus?
- Why the Cross?
- Why the Bible?
- Why am I Here?

If you are wondering where to begin in this whole new world of spiritual truth, start here. In this course, we will cover these five Essential Truths over the next 9 sessions:

- Session 1: Introduction (You are here!)
- Session 2: Who Is God? (Part 1)
- Session 3: Who Is God? (Part 2)
- Session 4: Who Is Jesus? (Part 1)
- Session 5: Who Is Jesus? (Part 2)
- Session 6: Why the Cross? (Part 1)
- Session 7: Why the Cross? (Part 2)
- Session 8: Why the Bible? (Part 1)
- Session 9: Why the Bible? (Part 2)
- Session 10: Why Am I Here?
2. Essential Disciplines

Spiritual growth does not happen by accident. Christians over the centuries have learned that we need to work at bringing our wayward mind and body into alignment with God’s purposes. We need to develop strong spiritual habits that will enable us to withstand challenges and to serve in this world. We have identified four spiritual habits, or disciplines, that we need to cultivate:

- Bible Reading
- Prayer
- Stewardship & Giving
- Sharing My Faith

As with any discipline, it may take some time and effort before any of these practices become an everyday part of our lives. We can begin, however, to take small steps and over time these small steps can carry us a long way!

3. Essential Engagement

We cannot simply learn discipleship in the classroom. We grow as Jesus’ followers as we actually engage with others. We cannot just love others in theory. We must get out into the world and actually do something! Here at Bethany, we emphasize two essential levels of engagement:

- Commitment to Others
- Commitment to Mission

Conclusion

So these are the three Bethany Be One Essentials that we feature in our clear guided pathway to spiritual development. We trust that God will use this pathway to lead you even deeper in your relationship with Jesus.