



S A M P L E

THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME
TO REVIEW THIS SAMPLE OF BOOK 1 IN THE SERIES.

PAPER BACK & E-BOOKS ARE AVAILABLE
ONLINE AT WWW.SIMPLYCINDYROWE.COM/STORE.

How To Use This Study

When I started this examination of “Truly, I tell you” I found approximately eighty times this phrase, spoken by Jesus, was recorded in the Bible. I have combined the details of each statement from the four gospels and summarized them into forty “Truly Chapters” (4 volumes of 10 chapters each, released in 2 books).

To assist us in learning these words each “Truly Chapter” has a section called “Sink Into Your Ears” with questions that may help you explore the deeper meaning of the scripture for personal devotionals; or they can be used for small group studies.

Also, each “Truly Chapter” has a section called, “My Umbrella”. This is a place you can journal your own personal experiences of how the “truly” words Jesus has given challenged you, enlightened you, and deepened your faith.

Finally, I encourage you to read these scriptures in various versions. You may never know which style will personally speak to you or which word God will use to speak to you. But “truly I tell you”, when you seek Him, He is faithful to respond. And like any good parent, you never know what God the Father may have hidden in your bags!

It Rains—Take The Umbrella!

Introduction by Cindy Rowe

tru·ly [troo-lee] *adverb*

- in accordance with fact or truth; truthfully.
- exactly; accurately; correctly.
- rightly; properly; duly.
- legitimately; by right.
- really; genuinely; authentically.

Looking at the above definitions of “truly” I am drawn into the depth of right-ness. Then I wondered—why is it a surprise to me that Jesus would use this word? Why am I surprised that Jesus would speak such absolute truth when He had said, *“I am The Way, The Truth, and The Life...”* (John 14:6) The fact that the person who actually is “The Truth” is speaking to us is a very compelling reason to stop and take note of His words, but the fact that there are times when He speaks these words and adds the word “truly” to His statement is particularly noteworthy. Sometimes He even says “very truly”.

Basically, by definition, being “The Truth” we could say He is incapable of speaking anything that is incorrect or false. Being “The Way” and “The Life” means He could never lead us astray or betray us. By using the word truly before His statements it is understood that what He is about to say does not diverge from the rule or standard and cannot be inaccurate. If that wasn’t enough to get our attention, in John chapter 1 we are told Jesus is “The Word”. That’s a pretty firm standing.

So, to summarize: The Word, The Way, The Truth, and The Life has spoken some very truly statements. What is our response? According to 2nd Timothy 3:14-15 we are to live what we have learned. *“But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy*

you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.” If we are to be “Christ-like” and wise in our faith we should then, at the very least, heed His advice.

Speaking of heeding advice. . . . Have you ever had someone give you instruction or advice but you didn’t really understand it until later? While packing to leave for college in San Francisco my daughter Melissa had this experience in our long and heated discussion about an umbrella. She insisted she didn’t need to pack her umbrella and would never use it. I insisted she would. She did not pack the umbrella. Happy she’d won this battle she went off to college. As she drove away to her college dorm my husband asked me how I was holding up, knowing she’d left the umbrella. He, of course, had been witness to the hours of tears and gnashing of teeth as she and I battled the night before about that stupid umbrella. I smiled and told him I had done what any good parent would do; I’d hidden the umbrella in her bags.

A couple of months later, it happened. Melissa called.

“Hi Mom. Just called to say hi and tell you it’s raining today in San Francisco,” she stated reluctantly.

“Oh Really?” I asked, trying not to giggle.

“Yes, and do you know what? I’m dry thanks to my umbrella.” She said confidently. “I’m glad you hid it in my bags. I really did need it today. I’m sorry I gave you such a hard time.”

Ah, the fruit of a Mother’s worry and tears, toiling over the words spoken to those deaf ears now birthed into life—at just the right time. Yes, a mother’s joy. But also a Savior’s joy?

The disciples were there when the “Truly” words were actually spoken by Jesus. Have you thought if you were there when Jesus spoke it

would be easier to listen and follow His words? Maybe not; Luke 9:43-45 records for us that the disciples didn't understand what they had heard at the time and, in fact, God hid the meanings from them *until the right time* for the words to be used and make sense. *"And they were all astonished at the majesty of God. But while all were marveling at all the things which He did, He said unto His disciples, 'Let these words sink into your ears: for the Son of man shall be delivered up into the hands of men.' But they understood not, and it was concealed from them, that they should not perceive it; and they were afraid to ask him about this saying."*

Speaking in this same manner, I could have said to my daughter, **"Truly, I tell you,** the rain will come and you will be in need of a dry place to stand. Do not leave it behind, but take this umbrella and be well". I don't think I spoke that poetically. It probably sounded something like "Your little hoodie will not keep you dry, so don't be so stubborn. We're talking about San Francisco, not sunny Southern California. It rains—take the umbrella!!" Like Melissa and the disciples, we are told to "Let these words sink into our ears". And while we may not understand at the time, soon the day will come for truth to "rain".

Table Of Contents

Volume 1: Love And Obedience	1
Truly 1: Blessed Assurance	3
Truly 2: What More Is In Store.....	12
Truly 3: Treasure These Moments	17
Truly 4: Surprise!!.....	22
Truly 5: True Bread?.....	27
Truly 6: Practice And Preaching.....	35
Truly 7: I'm Gonna Dress You Funny	40
Truly 8: Love's Reward.....	48
Truly 9: Crazy Obedience	55
Truly 10: Profits In This World.....	61
 Volume 2: Sin And Forgiveness.....	 69
Truly 11: This Is Great Asparagus	71
Truly 12: The Greatest Example.....	77
Truly 13: It's My Choice	83
Truly 14: No Brainer	88
Truly 15: No Bent Reeds	95
Truly 16: For The Team	101
Truly 17: Woe.....	106
Truly 18: Paying The Price.....	111
Truly 19: Remember The Rooster	116
Truly 20: Look Who's Talking.....	122
 Small Group Tips	 129
Study Tips	131
Belonging.....	132



Volume 1

**Love
And
Obedience**



TRULY 1

Blessed Assurance



“Very **truly**, I tell you,” Jesus answered, “before Abraham was born, I am!” John 8:58

If you haven’t read the introduction to this book I encourage you to stop and read it now. This “truly” verse in particular will make more sense if you do. As we learned in the introduction (...see what I mean...) Jesus is The Word, The Way, The Truth, and The Life. Now in this truly verse we learn that He is also “I am”.

If we backup to the beginning of John chapter 8, Jesus has just endured a few unpleasant encounters with Jewish leaders. He also makes some “truly” statements in this chapter that we will explore later. Right now our focus will be on His claims about Himself. In these unpleasant encounters in John chapter 8 Jesus makes claims about His relationship with His Father and to Abraham (the father of all in the Jewish blood line) cumulating in the statement “I Am” in verse 58.

Reading from John 8:12 forward I am prompted to think about how celebrities must feel when they are judged for words or behaviors by fans or critics, statements made like those fans or critics actually know the person. They don’t know the celebrity personally and have no

standing to speculate on their motives, reasoning, or state of mind. These judgments are most typically made instantly on the various social media sites we have these days. When such statements are made we also find others offering their own opinions, all spoken as truth.

Some celebrities have mastered not letting these statements get into their heads and others seem bent on defending themselves, most of the time just making things worse. In this setting, outlined in John 8, we see Jesus taking the media's questioning like a pro. He's not flustered or feeling like He needs to defend Himself. He simply states the facts. Although I do hear a little touchiness as He says, "...*you don't know me or my Father.*" (vs19) But even with that bit of frustration showing through, what we witness is a person speaking with an attitude of self-assuredness. He knows who He is and where He has come from. He knows who He works for and where He is going. How liberating to be able to follow the path set before you with all of that "blessed assurance".

When our son Michael left for his first year of college at Musicians Institute our parting advice was this, "You have nothing to prove so just be yourself. You know you have talent and we know you have talent. Now is the time to learn and focus on your own journey." He knows who he is and where he has come from. He knows who he works for and where he is going. Michael was released to also walk in this sort of "blessed assurance". Not to say that walking in that with all of our human frailties isn't difficult; maturing in this knowledge definitely has had its moments. Just like my son Michael, our only responsibility is to try and live in a way that honors the one who has sent us. In verses 29, 49, and 54 Jesus also speaks of honoring His Father by doing what pleases Him, giving glory to the Father.

In verse 47 Jesus says, "*He who belongs to God hears what God says.*" He did not say, "I am the only one that belongs to God and only I hear His voice." Using the phrase "he who" implies that anyone can be included. Belonging is the only criteria. This means to be born again (John 3:6-

8), to be Christ-like (Eph 5:1-2), and live in Him and through Him (Acts 17:27-29). We are also adopted into His family as co-heirs of Jesus (Rom 8:15-17/Col 1:9-14). With all this confirmation of our position in God's family should come the same confidence to speak and act that Jesus moved in; we also are sent by our heavenly Father into those moments in which He leads (2 Cor 3:3-5).

If this is true, then why do we fear, become reluctant, or hesitate? For me, I hear that inner voice asking, "Who do you think you are?" Others may feel like the task is out of their comfort zone. Some may question their own motives. Well, guess what? Jesus has the fix for all of these, as noted in John 8.

- **Comfort Zone**—verse 51—You will never taste death.
- **Motives**—verse 54—Always make sure God gets the glory.
- **Who are you**—verse 29—The one who sent me is with me.

In the recording of these encounters the author of the gospel reminds us that Jesus even faced tough moments as He spoke truth. First, I am sure that Jesus would have been much more comfortable in heaven with His Father and The Holy Spirit chillin' on a cloud, but no, He was on the dusty streets of Israel, talking to these puffed up, haughty people who were questioning His mission. Secondly, in verse 48 they call Him demon possessed. Then, in verse 13 they invalidate His testimony. And finally, in verses 25 and 53 they dare to ask "Who are you?" and "Who do you think you are?"

We should not think we are alone in facing our inner doubts when Jesus faced these same words as direct questions. In 1st John 3:1 we read, *"How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him"*. We should now walk boldly as children of God in our own journey with the blessed assurance of knowing that we are part of God's family and "I Am" is who we work for and who has sent us.

Sink Into Your Ears—I

Read the definitions of “truly” in the introduction and discuss their relationship to the characteristics of Jesus, the person.

Has social media negatively affected you or your family? If so, explain the trigger and how the situation was handled.

Have you had a situation where you felt questioned or challenged for truth or insight? If so, explain how you handled yourself.

What would be different in your life if you had nothing to prove and could just be yourself?

BLESSED ASSURANCE

Describe how you try to live honorably.

Describe two areas in which you could increase “always doing what pleases the Father” (John 8:29).

Discuss “he who belongs” from John 8:47. Do you belong to God? If not, and you need some guidance, see the section at the end of the book called—Belonging.

Which of the belonging elements noted in this chapter means the most to you and why?

- Born Again (John 3:6-8)

TRULY, I TELL YOU

- Christ-like (Eph 5:12)

- Live in Him and through Him (Acts 17:27-29)

- Adopted as co-heirs of Jesus (Rom 8:15-17/Col 1:9-14)

- Sent by our Heavenly Father (Col 3:3-5)

If you haven't already, read the associated verses above for each of these elements and discuss.

Which of the three hesitations listed in the chapter do you relate to most?

- **Comfort Zone**
- **Motives**
- **Who are you**

BLESSED ASSURANCE

Is yours different? If different, search for a verse that can give you peace of mind.

Read 2nd Corinthians 1:4. How does this verse relate to stretching our comfort zones?

Read 2nd Corinthians 4:7. How does this verse put a new light on where our power comes from? How should we use this to check our motives?

Read 2nd Corinthians 3:5 Ephesians 2:19, Colossians 3:3-4. How do these verses answer the question “Who are you?”

TRULY, I TELL YOU

What is one step you could make today to start living with more blessed assurance?

Take one idea from this chapter and share it this week with someone.
“And they have defeated evil by the blood of the Lamb, by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives so much that they were afraid to die.” Revelation 12:11 New Living Translation

My Umbrella—1

[illegible]



This effort started with a simple goal: Make available God inspired insights, poetry and photo art, and share my testimony. Writing books that explore scriptures is the avenue God has provided to share the insights He gives. Photo art has become a way to express The Lord's beauty as seen through my eyes. Poetry has been a part of my life since I was young and I am thrilled to have the opportunity to share my heart in this way. Visiting groups and churches speaks to my commitment to God's calling for my life to encourage others to reach their fullness in Christ and share my testimony. Currently, my husband Rob and I make our home in South Orange County California. We have two grown children, Melissa & Michael. Over the years I have served The Lord through leadership in various church programs including children's ministry, women's ministry, worship and choir, drama groups, and puppetry. I have also authored books, essays, small group studies, scripts, leadership training guides, and choreographed musicals and worship dance productions.

To contact the author visit her website:
www.simplycindyrowe.com

BOOKS

PHOTOS

MINISTRY

"Truly, ——— I Tell You"

Studying the Words of Jesus
- Book One -

Cindy Rowe

outskirtspress
DENVER, COLORADO