



Imagine we are going on trip - an adventure of sorts. Let's make it interesting and say that we are driving across the country. We'll start here in Garner and go all the way to Los Angeles, California. Anyone want to guess how many miles that would be? I googled it (whew, thank you google), and it turns out that it is 2,548 miles. If we drove straight there, without stopping, and without any traffic issues or road construction, it would take about 37 hours - a day and a half. Realistically, we would probably want to travel about 500 miles a day...so if we want to make the drive more bearable, it would take 4-5 days.

What do you need for a drive that is that long? What would you want to be certain that you had in the car? When I was a little girl, I would always make sure that I had crayons and coloring books, a book to read, a deck of cards...it's hard to remember now what I would pack. I remember well that we would always have a "goodie bag" - that was a paper grocery bag that was filled with snacks. My mom would always make sure that there were healthy choices, but the peanut butter crackers, doughnut holes, and oatmeal cookies were always gone first. Oftentimes, she would pack our lunch and we would picnic along the way.

Can you imagine going on a trip without any of these things? It's hard to imagine, but Jesus did that very thing. In Matthew, chapter 4, we learn more about Jesus and a trip that he took. Any guesses about where he went? The Bible tells us in Matthew 4:1 that Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He was there for forty days and forty nights...and he fasted the entire time. Can you imagine being on your trip and not having anything to eat? I don't know about you, but I get very cranky when I am hungry!

Satan came to Jesus three times, tempting Him in various ways. Each time, Jesus made a careful response with truth from scripture. Did you know that each of Jesus' responses came straight from the book of Deuteronomy - chapters 6 & 8? Jesus had devoted his time in the wilderness to trusting God and meditating on His Word, and when faced with temptation, he was able to process what God expected of Him, resist temptation and respond with truth.

Right before Jesus was betrayed, he prayed the same thing for us! Jesus knew that for us to live with grace in this world, we would need to know the truth that fills His Word. Knowing God's Word sets us apart (sanctifies us) and allows us to live and act differently. Every day we face trials and temptations of various kinds, and if we have taken the time to memorize God's word, then we can respond with truth...just like Jesus!

KEY VERSE: Sanctify them by the truth; thy word is truth. John 17:17