Truth Cheat Sheet

# Lachie’s tips for discerning truth

1. It’s important to get you info from a broad spectrum of ideas. This helps prevent polarization and confirmation bias.
2. Make sure the sources are reputable. Avoid blogs with people’s ideas and look for these things instead:
   1. research done by groups instead of individuals
   2. have been peer reviewed
3. Being responsible with truth helps avoid polarization and is vital for our Christian witness as it shows us to be thoughtful, open minded and honest. (ie, the more we responsible we are with discerning truth, the greater chance they’ll listen when we share The Truth.)

# From the sermon

* Polarization describes the dividing of people into two completely opposing groups.
* Polarization happens because people have a desire for significance and identity.
* Polarization is caused when we seek identity and significance in out areas of interest.
* Until we’ve sorted out our identity and significance, we are not mature enough to search for and hold on to truth. Romans 1:21-23
* We can avoid polarization. Because when you have a firm grasp of The Truth, you are prepared to properly deal with non-biblical truths in a healthy and loving way.
* Paul’s prayer from Ephesians 1:17-19 shows us The Truth. This is where we find identity and significance. We need to understand:
  + The eternal hope we have in Jesus
  + That we are God’s glorious inheritance
  + His incredibly great power is available to us who believe.

# Discussion Questions

1. What examples of polarization do you see around?
2. What non-Biblical truth do you find yourself aligning to in an unhealthy way?
3. Discuss this quote from Kirk Schneider “One reason we tend to become fixated and polarized is because of individual and collective trauma that associates with a profound sense of insignificance,”. Does this resonate with you?
4. How does Romans 1:21-23 fit in with this?
5. Read all of Ephesians 1. This is all about our identity and significance in Christ. List and discuss some of the incredible truths.
6. Verses 17-19 summarize Paul’s argument. We have hope in Christ, we are God’s glorious inheritance, we have God’s power. Which of these do you need reminding of?
7. Why?
8. What will you do with what you’ve learned today?
9. How is this good news to the world around us?
10. Who will you share it with this week?