



Innovative Truth

Bringing Scripture to Life

March 2023

Happy Spring!

Last month we shared about our new Discord channel. It's still relatively foreign to be using the on-line discussion platform, but we're committed to meeting this younger generation where they are. Tonya and I remind each other, we just need to show up daily committed to sharing the Gospel, and God will take care of everything else.

The group now has 22 members, of which the majority have never read the Bible at all. If you're interested in reading the daily messages we share, go to our website at www.innovativetruth.org. From there, click the drop down menu and go to "on-line discussions". You can read the Lenten Journey messages there. Just remember, the website is simply our copied messages from the Discord channel so you won't be reading all of the responses and reactions, other than a few Discord members who gave us permission to share their comments. If you'd like to join the Discord channel to interact fully, let us know and we will share the link.

A few Innovative Truth partners who meet with us weekly in one of the 12 small groups have joined the Discord channel too. Yesterday, Carrie shared a message on the Discord channel, and then gave me permission to print it here as well.

NEVER DOUBT, YOUR INNOVATIVE TRUTH PARTNERSHIP MATTERS!

From Carrie~

"I've been in one of Tonya's weekly small groups for over 5 years.

I remember back in 2018 or 2019 when you hosted a retreat weekend for us. That weekend changed my life.

Growing up my dad talked about God and tried to keep us in church. But my mom was always depressed and rejected God. The older I've gotten, the more I see, my mom's depression came from her leading a life where she always made bad choices, pushed people away, and blamed everyone else for her junk. She always thought the "cure" was going to come from the next thing that caught her attention. That could be prescription meds, another job, or even a man who showed her a little attention. She had affairs and blamed my dad. She NEVER admitted anything was her fault. She found excuses to stay away from church, and even made fun of my dad's relationship with God. She would say terrible things about my dad to make him look bad to me and my sister.

My parents divorced after another of her affairs. She was sure her life would be perfect after that. But I bet you can guess what happened. A relationship that starts with an affair has no foundation, and that man quickly saw who she was too.

High school was rough as she bounced us all around chasing her next cure. My dad stayed true to his relationship with God and as the years passed, I learned more and more that my dad was a man to be respected. He was nothing like my mom described. Now I'm in my mid-20's and have been dating the man I want to spend my life with. Growing up I never thought I'd want to get married. Marriage looked like a prison sentence. And my mom had twisted my thinking so much into thinking men were the enemy. She had me buying into all that "toxic masculinity" crap. Then I was invited to an Innovative Truth small group with Tonya. EVERYTHING CHANGED.

I'd never known a woman older than me that I could really talk to and trust. I never had a woman cheer for the best for me. I'd never known someone who could show me God in everything, stand up for truth, and be so unashamed to call Jesus her Savior. She showed me what a strong woman looked like while proudly explaining the importance of being submissive to a Godly man.

Tonya untwisted my brain about toxic masculinity. Now I'm excited to have a Godly husband in my future.

My future husband and I have been talking a lot about what we want our traditional roles to look like and how we want God to lead us.

Of course, even trying to ask me to marry him, my mom tried to pull us back into her bad thinking. I said something about Joe asking my dad for my hand and my mom blew up.

But after years of learning to put God first, I stayed strong and told my mom, respectfully, to stay in her lane.

I tried to show her in scripture all I've learned about the father & husband's role but she wouldn't hear it. And that's ok. I will continue to pray for my mom and ask God to soften her heart. I want Joe to speak to my Dad because it's biblical, it's Godly, and I'm unashamed to say I want a marriage that sits on that strong foundation.

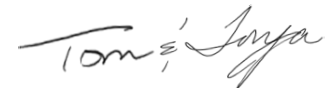
Thank you for investing in all of us. You may never know how many lives you've changed.

I'll NEVER forget the day you led me in prayer to accept Christ as my Savior. I'm still a sinner. I still need guidance. And I know Jesus loves me anyway.

I love you T!"

Thank you for your partnership of prayers and financial gifts. Please let us know how we can pray for you!

All our love,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tom & Tonya".