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# SESSION 3

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Based on Episode 3 | Andrew

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## Synopsis of the Episode

This episode focusses on PC Andrew Powell. He was a friend of the Oyenui family and knew Vernon well. He was the one trying to talk to Vernon when one of his colleagues, PC Dawn Morris, sprayed him in his eyes so that he went outside and was shot. His colleagues closed ranks, claiming that Dawn had done nothing wrong and pressuring Andrew to change his statement to say the same. Andrew is tormented by their pressure and feels torn between his principles and his friends and family. Roz also continues to talk to Fr Michael about her intention to commit suicide and, at the end of the episode, Fr Michael confronted the priest who had abused him as a child.

## Suggested Bible Passage

John 8.31-36

## What is Truth?

This episode focusses on telling the truth, there are many strands you might want to pick out of it: The episode sets up the story as PC Andrew Powell wanting to tell the truth as opposed to the others who wanted to lie. He says that he is convinced that PC Dawn and the firearms officer wanted to discharge their weapons.

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- Do you think this is fair? Is it possible to read what they did more charitably than Andrew does?
  - When he says that his version is different from the others, his superior officer stated wryly that 'even the Gospels couldn't agree.' He meant by this that everyone sees things differently and will give a different account of what they see. If this is true, how do we know what truth is?
  - You might also like to draw in reflections on John 8.32 ('you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.') in your discussion, in what way would truth set anyone free in this story?
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## Courage and Truth

'I can't tell the truth anymore, I haven't got it in me...I haven't got the courage.'

The episode presents Andrew as having a huge internal battle about whether to tell the truth or not. In the end he bows to peer pressure and backs up their story

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- If Andrew were to have asked you for advice what would you have said to him?
  - Did you discuss Fr Michael not telling Helen last week about not picking up the phone when she called? Does it feel different this week, when placed against Andrew's struggle to tell the truth to his colleagues? What do you think is stopping Fr Michael telling the truth now?
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## Bodies

At the end of the episode, Fr Michael went to confront the person who abused him as a child. At one point the elderly priest said that what he had done was not important because: 'The Body is insignificant, what it does is insignificant ...it is the soul within that counts'

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- How would you respond to this?
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## Closing Prayer

Spend some time in prayer. If you feel comfortable this could be a time of open prayer or you could use the biddings and prayer below. bidding:

We pray for those who seek after truth...

Lord, hear us

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

For those who need great courage to stand up for what they believe to be true...

Lord, hear us

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

For those who have suffered at the hand of others and feel as though no one cares...

Lord, hear us

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

Almighty God,  
whose only Son has opened for us  
a new and living way into your presence:  
give us pure hearts and steadfast wills  
to worship you in spirit and in truth;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

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