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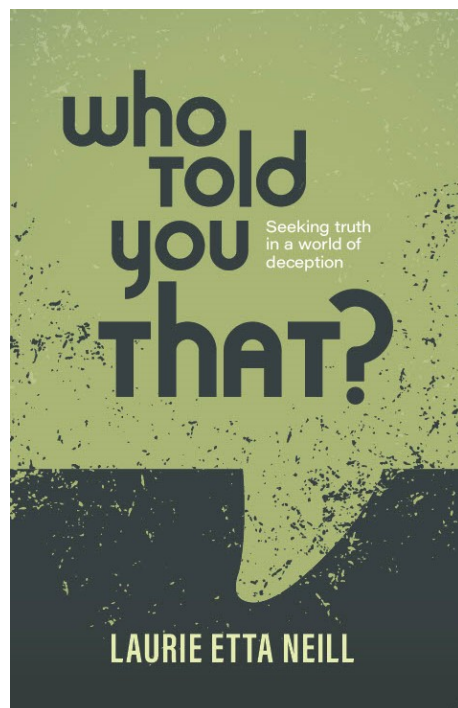
Who Told You That?

Seeking Truth in a World of Deception

Who told you that? That was God’s question for Adam and Eve, and it is the question he has for us today. Life experiences may leave us believing we are failures, unlovable, stupid, or worthless. God asks, “Who told you that?” By examining how we come to believe those lies about ourselves, we can learn to live by the truth instead. Through relevant personal stories, humor, and a practical tool called The Lie Detector, readers will discover the following:

- How to identify misbeliefs about themselves and God.
- How to replace those misbeliefs with truth.
- How to live a life of peace, joy, and contentment.
- That it is not people, circumstances, or things that determine our happiness—it is what we believe about those things that matters. “Then you will know the truth and the truth will set you free” (John 8:32).

A study in the profound impact of lies and truths alike, *Who Told You That?* focuses not on modifying behavior but on transformation of the heart. Laurie Etta Neill guides readers through an exploration of cultural beliefs and internalized struggles on the path to truth, revealing along the way that the answer to this central question has the power to change lives. Our misbeliefs can have devastating consequences. Know the truth—and be set free.



For more info please contact media@deeperiverbooks.com



About the Author

Laurie Etta Neill

Rev. Laurie Etta Neill is an ELCA pastor, award-winning writer, and passionate proponent of the truth. In her role as a pastoral counselor, she discovered that many of the struggles people face are due to misbeliefs they hold about who God is and who God says they are. This, along with her own personal struggle with self-doubt and shame, propelled her to learn more about combatting debilitating misbeliefs.

After careers as a graphic designer, writer, and editor, Ms. Neill felt a call to ordained ministry. This once ultra-shy kid from Montana now speaks in front of thousands of people, both in person and online, through her congregation in Fargo, North Dakota. Ms. Neill marries her love of art and faith through her blog, LaurieEtta.com. She and her husband, Doug, have four grown children and live in Moorhead, Minnesota. Their biggest source of entertainment is their two cats, Betty and Veronica.

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What Others Are Saying about *Who Told You That?*

Pastor Neill's biblical insight, top-shelf storytelling, integrity with the Word of God, and honesty about the human condition make *Who Told You That?* a must-read. If you want to refresh, renew, and rebuild your faith, spend time right here in this fantastic book. Prepare to be blessed!

—**Rev. Corey Bjertness, ret. senior pastor, First Lutheran Church**

Who Told You That? equips readers to confront the cultural lies that too often distort perceptions of self and society to stand in the way of a peace-filled life. With a delicate pastoral touch, Neill draws on the power of Scripture and story to discover truth from lies in life's moments of struggle, doubt, and heartbreak, as well as those of forgiveness, hope, and joy. Each chapter provides a lively springboard for inspiring group discussion or personal reflection, encouraging readers to ground their thoughts and actions in timeless truths.

—**Marianna Malm, educator**

Who Told You That? is a well-written and important book. The author uses humor and personal stories to connect with the audience and address the larger issues that most of us struggle with. The topic of recognizing lies and the debilitating effect they have on our lives is thoroughly dealt with. Each chapter makes a case supported by logic and backed by Bible references. The "Thoughts to Consider" study questions make the content immediately applicable to daily life. This is a book that has practical implications for personal and spiritual growth, and that makes it worth reading.

—**Montana Lattin, theater arts coordinator, Rosie International, Middle East**

The study was excellent. I have benefitted so much from it. Everything is clear and easy to understand. I especially like the way the "lies" and "truths" were spelled out clearly and can be referred to easily, which I will be doing frequently! I learned that everyone has bad feelings about themselves—I thought it was just me. Freeing!

—**Judy Hanawalt, study participant**

I appreciated the biblical foundation of your material as well as the integration of lecture and discussion/personal sharing.

—**Peter Schmidt, study participant**

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Suggested Interview Questions for Laurie Etta Neill, Author of *Who Told You That?*

Q: What issues or problems does this book take on?

A: As a pastoral counselor, I have witnessed the devastating consequences misbeliefs can cause. This book offers practical ways to identify and defeat those lies, which is vitally important these days. Wrong thinking produces wrong emotions and identities. We are deceived into believing we are how we appear, what we accomplish, what we acquire, or what we feel. In truth, we are who our Creator says we are, which is beloved and worthy. Right thinking, which is based on the truth, makes it possible to traverse the realities of life—like loneliness, rejection, and disappointments—with joy and grace.

Q: What is the significance of the title?

A: The answer to the question “Who told you that?” helps readers determine which voice, the truth or the lie, is allowed in. For years, I allowed faulty beliefs to steal my peace and negatively affect my emotional well-being. Learning how to identify misbeliefs and replace them with the truth of God changed my life. My desire is to help readers do the same.

Q: What makes this book stand out from other, similar books on the market?

A: What excites me about this book is that it offers a unique and practical path for readers to find a way out of emotions like depression, fear, worry, shame, and self-pity. In *Who Told You That?*, our misbeliefs are exposed through the book’s three-step tool called “The Lie Detector.” It helps readers 1) identify the lie, 2) argue against it, and 3) replace it with the truth, which is found in the Word of God. This book also recognizes that the reader does not need more “shoulds” in their life. Unlike many other, similar books, I try not to say, “You should...” but instead say, “Me too.”

Q: Can you give us an example of how The Lie Detector works?

A: One misbelief featured in the book is “I Am Who Other People Say I Am.” All my life, I’ve struggled with wanting to please people and worrying whether people approve of me, and that can be exhausting. I believed the lie that my worth was based on other people’s opinion of me—but that isn’t true. I had to ask myself, “Who told you that?” and I quickly determined it wasn’t God. Scripture, the truth, tells us that we don’t need

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human approval to be worthy. Another person's view of me does not determine my value. After I had identified the lie, I was able to realize the truth. The Lie Detector takes readers through the same process.

Q: Where do the lies we believe come from?

A: One of the chapters in the book explores the source of lies, which is Satan. The Enemy would love it if we'd believe he doesn't exist or is some archaic figure, yet the Bible tells us that our battles are not against our neighbor, our boss, or the stock market, but the Enemy's lies. Our hope rests in becoming attuned to the voice of truth, which is God's Word, so that we can recognize the voice of lies, which is Satan. We properly determine which voice we are listening to by asking, again, "Who told you that?"

Q: How does the Enemy lie to us?

A: First, in the Garden of Eden, Satan asks Eve, "Did God really say you couldn't eat of the tree?" He similarly lies today by asking, "Did God really say you were his masterpiece, that you were free, forgiven, his child?" Second, after banishment from the Garden, God asks Adam, "Who told you you were naked?" He similarly asks us today, "Who told you you were worthless, a failure, unforgivable?" Surely not God. He teaches us quite the opposite. Third, when Jesus is being tempted by Satan in the desert, he knows he can't attack Jesus' character, so he attacks Jesus' identity. He gets us to question our identity too, by asking us, "If you are a child of God, then why do you suffer, doubt, long?" He has us question who God says he is and who God says we are. This book uses stories and examples to help readers become familiar with the Enemy's tactics and fight against them.

Q: What is the central message you believe God wants people to hear through your book?

A: The central message of my book is that your beliefs and misbeliefs are the most important factors in determining your emotional and spiritual health. It may sound overly simplistic, but the beliefs we tell ourselves can only be one of two things: the truth or a lie. Which of the two are you believing? In *Who Told You That?*, you will discover the tools to identify misbeliefs that are often accepted as true and learn to replace them with the genuine truth of God's Word.

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