



Climate Changed Podcast Discussion Guide **Season 2, Episode 1**

Guest: Rob Shetterly

Title: What Does Collective Truth Telling Look Like?

Welcoming Activity

Our podcast hosts introduced themselves using just five words: “minister, mother, naturalist, relatively-new Mainer” (Nicole) and “father, islander, researcher, home renovator” (Ben). Take a moment to consider five words that describe you, then share with the group.

Introduction To Episode

In this episode, Nicole Diroff has a conversation with Rob Shetterly about what it means to tell the truth as individuals and as a collective. Truth telling is both contextual and relational, says Rob, and it invites us to offer new frameworks for being in the world together. Drawing from his many years as a visual artist, social activist, and writer, Rob describes how his art project, “Americans Who Tell the Truth,” is one way for him to speak on issues like militarism, environmental justice, and mountaintop removal coal mining.

Discussion Questions

1. Author Erik Reece, who Rob quotes, wrote: “Our most modern sin is that we do not love the world enough. We have exiled the holy from this realm so we can turn its mountains into money” [06:08]. While Erik was speaking about strip mining in Appalachia, what examples of this modern sin exist near the places where you live?
2. Methods of truth telling are often “so particular to a particular time or a particular threat or a particular moment” [06:48]. In other words, truth telling means telling a particular truth to a particular context. With this in mind, what do you think about Rob’s claim that the strategy of truth telling is just as important as the truth that is told?
3. How are individual truth telling and collective truth telling similar? How are these different? What is the individual’s role in collective truth telling, and vice versa? [11:34]
4. What resources might your faith or spiritual tradition offer that may help you navigate the discourses that are so often divisive in our polarized society?
5. A common theme in this episode is that truth telling takes place within and brings us back into relationships — with one another, with nonhuman lives, and with the Divine and the sacred. What relationships might you have the chance to reconnect with through the practice of truth telling?

Closing Activity

Read the poem “Instead” by Tony Hoagland ([link](#)). As you move throughout this next week, be looking for the *instead* moments and what these might reveal about the truth.