

## The Ninth Commandment

**Read:** Exodus 20:16

**Main idea:** Since God is truth, He expects His children to be people that live and share the truth of His gospel in a way that communicates that truth in love.

**Key Verses:** “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.” (20:16 ESV)

### Key Principles:

- God is truth and just and therefore always speaks truth and provides justice as the perfect and holy ruler of creation.
- As we obey this commandment, we bear witness to our neighbors of the character of God and the truth of His gospel.
- Satan is the father of lies and works to stir up chaos, division, disorder and injustice in our world.
- We are a selfish people who look after our own interests more than we look after the interests of others which causes us to bear false witness against our neighbors.
- Bearing false witness includes intentionally lying, conveniently leaving something out to make us look better, spreading rumors/gossip & any way we misrepresent the truth.
- The gospel should transform and shape our hearts and our lips to be a people of truth (Ephesians 4:25).

### Discussion:

1. Why do we lie? Put another way, what are our heart's motives when we lie? What does this commandment teach us about God?
2. As you think about this commandment, how have you seen false witness at work in your own life? Can you think of a story where your lying led to dishonoring God's name and to a mistrust in the community?
3. What are some ways that we bear false witness to the truth in our personal lives? What about our corporate lives?
4. When false witness happens in the church, how should we respond? Why is it important for truth to be evident in gospel community?
5. What does it look like for us to speak the truth in love to one another? What about to people outside of the community of faith? What about your family?
6. How can we be a people of truth? Do we stand up for the truth when no one else is standing up for the truth? How do we bear witness to the truth in our lives? What about within this Life Group?

### Prayer:

- Pray that we would remember that God is truth and we would be a people of truth.
- Pray:
  - That we would not allow false witness to divide, distort or disorder God's church.
  - That the truth of God's word would permeate our hearts and our fellowship.
  - That we would stand for and speak the truth in love inside & outside the church.

**IX: The Sanctity of Truth**  
Exodus 20:16

**Exodus 20:16** - *You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.*

**I. Truth is from God.**

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| 1. | We serve a God of <u>truth</u> . | Psalm 33:4-5  |
| 2. | We <u>represent</u> Christ.      | 1 John 1:5-10 |

**II. What sins are prohibited?**

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| 1. | Don't tell <u>malicious</u> lies.        | Deuteronomy 19:16-19       |
| 2. | Don't tell <u>jocular</u> lies.          | Proverbs 26:18-19          |
| 3. | What about the lie of <u>necessity</u> ? | Joshua 2:4-6<br>James 2:25 |

**III. What duties are required?**

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| 1. | <u>Walk</u> in the <u>truth</u> .     | Psalm 86:11         |
| 2. | <u>Avoid</u> gossip.                  | 2 Corinthians 12:20 |
| 3. | <u>Meditate</u> on the <u>truth</u> . | Psalm 51:6          |

NEXT WEEK:  
**X: The Sanctity of Motives**  
Exodus 20:17