

#9. Do Not Lie

(Exodus 20:16)

Introduction

You don't have to teach a child how to lie. Lying is a part of our human nature. If you asked a two-year-old kid, "Who broke Mommy's vase?" He'd probably say, "Not me!" when you know he was really responsible.

Why do you think people lie? People lie for self-protection or to gain advantage. They might be embarrassed about the truth or fearful of the consequences of telling the truth. People often lie to cover up other sins. We lie mostly out of fear of other people. But, it's not other people we ought to fear! Our holy God who commands us not to lie is very serious about our being truthful!

Today we're going to discover the consequences of lying.

Opening Prayer

Dear Lord, please help us to be truth-tellers so that we can show others that we are Your followers. Help us to stop lying. We are sorry for all the lies we've told. You told us You are the truth. Help us to know that it's always best to tell the truth. Amen.

Memory Verse

You must not testify falsely against your neighbor. (Exodus 20:16)

Lesson

We have been learning the Ten Commandments. Can anyone say the first eight without looking?

1. *Do not have any gods but Me* – God wants us to recognize that He is the *only* true God who created all things. He doesn't want us to let anything or anyone become more important to us than He is.
2. *Do not worship idols* – God wants us to worship only Him. Don't let anyone or anything steal God's place in your life.
3. *Keep God's Name Holy* – God doesn't want us to ever think anything, say anything or do anything that would bring dishonor to His name.
4. *Set aside a special day for God* – God wants us to dedicate one day a week to Him. It shows others how important God is to us, plus it refreshes our spirits.
5. *Honor your father and mother* – God promises us that if we respect and obey our parents, we will live a long and happy life.
6. *Do not murder* – God wants us to honor and respect life by choosing to say *no* to violence.
7. *Do not commit adultery* – God wants you to be true to your husband or wife.
8. *You must not steal* – God wants us to be givers and not takers.

The first four commandments teach us to love God with all of our hearts. And the other six commandments teach us to love others with that same kind of perfect love. By learning how to honor and love God first, you learn to honor and love others.

Today we're going to learn the ninth commandment.

Exodus 20:16

You must not testify falsely against your neighbor.

This is just another way of saying, you must not lie.

This commandment means that we should always tell the truth. We give “*false testimony*” by leaving something out of a story, telling a half-truth, twisting the facts, inventing falsehoods, or even allowing others to believe something that is not true!

Ephesians 4:25

So stop telling lies. Let us tell our neighbors the truth, for we are all parts of the same body.

What is a lie? It is anything that misleads or tricks someone into believing something that is not true.

Can you think of ways people lie about things? You can tell a lie by the way you act as well as by what you say.

- It’s a lie to pretend to be a certain way that you’re not.
- Often gossip is lying — saying something unkind about someone when you aren’t sure it is true.
- Exaggeration is lying — telling a story better than it really happened. (*Yikes! There’s a spider the size of a football!*)
- Making promises you know you cannot keep is another way of lying.

The Devil is the “father of lies”.

John 8:44

For you are the children of your father the devil and you love to do the evil things he does. He was a murderer from the beginning. He has always hated the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, it is consistent with his character; for he is a liar and the father of lies.

And Jesus is “the truth”.

John 14:6

Jesus told him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.”

Deception is a way of life for many people, but God’s children must not give into it. Ask the Lord to help you tell the truth. (Psalm 119:29)

Matthew 12:36

And I tell you this, you must give an account on judgment day for every idle word you speak.

That means that you and I will stand before God on judgment day and have to explain why we’ve said the things we have said.

- Have you ever been lied to? How did it feel?

We feel awful when someone lies to us. God wants us to tell the truth so much that he made this rule one of His top ten. It’s always best to tell the truth.

Why does God command us not to lie? God doesn’t want us to get into a messy web of lies. He loves us too much to see us hurt others and ourselves. It’s always best to tell the truth even when you’d be embarrassed by the truth or you’re afraid the truth will bring a punishment. If you find yourself telling a lie, tell the truth right away so you don’t get caught in a messy web of lies.

You want to be a trustworthy friend at all times.

Lies and God’s Eyes

Mary had a problem. She had borrowed her sister’s china animals for *Show and Tell* without asking anyone. On the way home, Mary dropped the bag of animals. Every miniature animal was shattered. Mary swept all the broken pieces back into the bag and hid it under her bed before her sister got home. When her mom asked her what she used for *Show and Tell*, Mary told her mom that she showed the class her seashells.

- What did Mary say that she brought to class?
- Why do you think Mary lied?

Mary took her sister's animals and broke them. Then she lied to cover up her mistake. We often lie to hide another sin, but God has very special eyes. He can see right through our lies.

- What can you do if you are afraid to tell the truth?

Mary lied about the animals because she was afraid of the consequences from breaking them. "*Consequences*" means what happens to you for doing something. Mary will have to suffer the consequences of breaking the animals and now also for lying. If you lie, you need to be truthful as soon as possible. God can see through all our lies anyway! Most people will be happy to forgive you. It's always best to tell the truth.

- What are some lies that are easy for you to slip into?

It can be tough to always tell the truth. God called you to be his special people. God's special people tell the truth.

One Little Lie

[Teacher, fill an 8-ounce glass half full with water. Gather the children around a table where they can see what you are doing.] Let's pretend that this clear water is you. Say you took your brother's toy race car and broke it and hid the pieces. When your brother asks you where the race car is, you lie. [Put a drop of food coloring into the water and stir it. Let the kids watch it swirl around.] One little lie makes you a liar and you've broken the 9th Commandment.

Revelation 21:8

But cowards, unbelievers, the corrupt, murderers, the immoral, those who practice witchcraft, idol worshipers, and all liars—their fate is in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death."

- What will happen to liars?
- Does that seem fair to you? Why or why not?

That's the bad news. Luckily for us, God didn't leave us in this awful situation.

The Bible tells us that Jesus poured out His life for us. [Before class, put bleach into a bottle with a label that says, "*Blood of Christ*". Now, during this demonstration, fill the glass with the bleach.] Jesus took the punishment for our lies so that we could be clean, innocent, and pure, like this water. [Hold the glass up to the light for the kids to see.] What would we do without Jesus? We'd be caught by our own lies.

When you ask Jesus to forgive you and you give your life to him, He makes you completely clean!

Closing Prayer

Dear Lord, we want to obey You when You say, "*Do not lie.*" We know it's always best to tell the truth. Thank You for helping us to always tell the truth, and forgive us when we slip up and tell lies. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Learning Activities

Craft Corner

Game Center

Use the following questions in a game of your choice:

Review questions:

1. What do you call something that isn't the truth? (A lie.)
2. How do you teach a child to lie? (You don't have to! It's part of our human nature.)
3. Why do people lie? (Mostly out of fear of other people.)

4. Why is it always best to tell the truth?
5. How can you let your lips speak the truth?
6. Why does God say, "*Do not lie*"? (God doesn't want us to get into a mess of lies. He doesn't want us to hurt others or ourselves.)
7. What does it mean to say, "*You must not testify falsely against your neighbor*"? (Don't tell a half-truth, or twist the facts, or invent something or purposely leave something out of a story about someone.)
8. What is a lie? (It is anything that misleads or tricks someone into believing something that is not true.)
9. Can you think of ways people lie about things? (By pretending to be a certain way that you're not; gossiping, exaggerating, making promises you know you can't keep.)
10. Who is the Father of lies? (The Devil)
11. What three things does Jesus use to describe Himself in John 14:6? (He said, "*I am the way, the truth, and the life.*")
12. What must you give an explanation for on judgment day? (For every idle word you have spoken.)
13. Explain how one's lies leads to another? (If you tell one lie, you have to tell another to cover up for the first one.)
14. What happens to liars? Does that seem fair to you? Why or why not?
15. How do you get complete, full forgiveness when you lie? (Confess your sins to Jesus and He will cleanse you.)

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