

LG | Leader

[Exodus 20:16]

WARM-UP (10 mins)

It is likely that everyone present had a very busy day, maybe even a trying day. Let's take a moment to still our minds and go to the Lord in prayer.

- Without looking, what are the first 8 commandments?
- In light of the 8th, have you been a thief this past week?
- What did you learn or find interesting about the 9th commandment this week?

ILLUMINATE (40 mins)

Open your Bibles to the primary text.

1. The 9th commandment is "you shall not bear false witness against your neighbor." What does this commandment mean in its simplest terms?
It means to lie. More specifically, it means to say or do something with intent to hide, cover, distort, or deceive another person or group of people.
2. How would you re-phrase this commandment in the positive? How would you communicate this commandment to a child?
We should be truth-tellers. It is so important to tell the truth and not lie; we tell the truth because God is the truth...and he made us like Himself.
3. Why was it so important for Israel to tell the truth about their neighbors? Is it just as important for us today?
Truthfulness was absolutely essential to the social fabric of Israel. They were an honor culture where judgements were made in the courts daily and life and death hung in the balance based on the witness of their neighbors. Likewise, truthfulness today is just as important because it is bound to God's character and nature, and we bear the image of God.
4. Why do you think we have a tendency to lie? Where does our lying originate from?
In Genesis 3 we read about the first lie...Adam and Eve were deceived at the very beginning with the craftiness of Satan twisting the words of God into a lie. We lie because we inherited this sin nature at the fall of mankind. We have this natural bend to want to lie, and apart from God we don't have a chance at being truthful.
5. What do Christians believe about the truth? How do we bear witness to the truth?
[Acts 1:8](#) - But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and **you will be my witnesses** in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth. We are participants in this truth. Because of God's written word, we bear witness to our Lord Jesus Christ. We are witnesses to the Truth, therefore we must be truth-tellers.

6. What is the Christian worldview? Do Christians believe in absolute truth? Is our source of truth found within us or outside of us?

Christians believe in absolute truth and reject all forms of subjective truth and subjective moral reasoning. We believe our very being and existence is upheld by greater, higher power outside of ourselves. Our source is God Almighty. He is the center and we revolve around him.

7. We must uphold truth publicly, but how do we uphold truth privately in our own lives?

We saturate ourselves in God's word, asking the Holy Spirit to reveal truth to us through God's revealed word.

PRAY

Use this time to pray specifically. Pray for the needs of others; locally and abroad.