



Sermon Discussion Questions

February 22, 2026

Exodus 20:16; Matthew 5:33-37

The 9th Commandment

Opening Questions

1. What stood out to you most from this sermon? Was there a particular point that challenged or encouraged you?
2. Why do you think the pastor described this as one of the harder commandments for him personally to prepare? What makes truthfulness so challenging in everyday life?

Understanding the Commandment

1. The sermon defines bearing false witness as "creating a false impression of what the facts really are." How does this definition expand beyond simply "not telling lies"?
2. This is the first commandment to specifically mention our "neighbor." Why is public truthfulness so important to the community of believers?

Practical Application

1. **Exaggeration:** The pastor identified exaggeration as "a blood relative to a lie." Why do we exaggerate? When have you been tempted to exaggerate to make yourself look better?
2. **Gossip:** How can we distinguish between genuine godly concern and gossip? Discuss the five questions the pastor suggested asking before speaking:
 - 1) Is this intentionally detrimental?
 - 2) Is this helpful?
 - 3) Is this encouraging (building up)?
 - 4) Does this fulfill a need?
 - 5) Is this kind (giving grace)?
3. Which of these five questions is hardest for you to honestly apply before speaking?

Gospel Connection

1. The pastor said, "The power of the Gospel is proven in the truthfulness of our words." What does this mean? How does dishonesty undermine our witness?
2. Read Ephesians 4:29 together. How does Paul's instruction about speech connect to the gospel and our identity in Christ?
3. The sermon mentioned that "a half truth is a whole lie" and that we compromise truth for "self preservation." How does the gospel free us from needing to preserve ourselves through deception?

Jesus and the Sermon on the Mount

1. In Matthew 5:33-37, Jesus takes the commandment deeper, saying our "yes" should be yes and our "no" should be no. What does this radical simplicity reveal about God's holiness and our calling?
2. How does Jesus move us "past the temporal into the eternal" with this teaching?

Personal Reflection

1. The pastor stated: "What we say and how we live must reflect the truth we believe." In what areas of your life is there the biggest gap between the truth you believe and how you're living?
2. How can we help one another in the church speak truth in love while avoiding both gossip and harsh judgment?
3. What is one specific way you want to grow in truthfulness this week? How can this group pray for you?

Closing Application

4. The sermon ended with a call to "know the truth, trust the truth, believe the truth, and live the truth." Which of these four do you find most challenging right now, and why?

Consider closing your discussion time by reading Ephesians 4:29 together again and praying for one another to speak words that give grace and build up the body of Christ.