

NAME _____

Confirmation Independent Study/Make-up Lesson

Session 10: Truth & Justice

1. Read Leviticus 26:3-13. Then put the verse numbers next to the thought that summarizes what the verses are about:

a. God will feel near to you	vv. _____
b. Threats will be removed and enemies vanquished	vv. _____
c. Harvests will be plentiful and food abundant	vv. _____
d. If you obey the Lord . . .	vv. _____

2. Read Exodus 20:16:
 - a. What is prohibited in this commandment? _____

 - b. Define the word testimony: _____
 - c. Define the word testify: _____
 - d. Define the word witness (noun) _____

3. Read Deuteronomy 19:15-19.
 - a. How many witnesses were required to convict anyone of a crime? _____
 - b. What was the penalty for giving false testimony against another? _____

4. In the question above you were looking up a parallel passage—another place in the Bible dealing with the same topic as before. This is one way of studying the Bible. Based on your study of the passages above, choose the option below that best describes the original purpose of the command to not give false testimony:
 - a. To make sure that no one ever told a lie.
 - b. To make sure that when a crime had been committed the innocent were protected and the guilty were punished.
 - c. To make sure that merchants would not cheat their customers.

5. Read Joshua 2:1-16.
- Did Rahab tell the truth? _____
 - In your opinion, did Rahab do the right thing? _____
 - Explain the reason for your answer above: _____

6. During World War II some people lied to save Jews from the Nazis. Was this a sin?

7. This is how the *Small Catechism* explains the 8th Commandment: "We are to fear and love God so that we do not betray, slander, or lie about our neighbor, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain his actions in the kindest way."
- Define these words, and use each of them in a sentence that you made up:
 - betray _____

 - slander _____

 - True or False Because the original commandment had to do with justice in a court of law, this explanation in the *Small Catechism* is meant to apply only to those kinds of situations, and not so much how we should deal with people in daily life.
8. Read Psalm 101:5. What will God do to a person who slanders others?

9. Read Proverbs 17:4. What kind of person listens to or pays attention to slander?

10. Read 1 Peter 2:1;
- Whose responsibility is it to get rid of slander and such things? _____

b. Explain what you think is the best way to actually get rid of bad things like slander in your own life? _____

11. Read Ephesians 4:29

a. Summarize the last half of that verse in your own words: _____

b. What kinds of things would you like to hear someone say to you to build you up?

c. Think of a couple of persons that you can say these kinds of things to and when you might be able to say them: _____

12. Read Leviticus 5:1. What does this passage say? _____

13. Read Romans 12:16-18:

Have you ever felt betrayed? What happened? How did you deal with it? _____

14. How often do your friends explain other peoples' actions in the most positive way rather than in a negative way?

- Most of the time
- Some of the time
- Hardly ever

15. How often is your opinion about someone lowered when you hear a friend talking bad about them?

- Most of the time
- Some of the time
- Hardly ever

16. Read Proverbs 22:1

In your understanding, why is a good reputation important, or valuable? _____

17. Give an example of a situation in which a person might need someone to “defend and speak well of” them:

18. Why does it sometimes take courage to “defend and speak well of” someone? _____

19. How big of a problem do you think gossip is for middle schoolers? Explain. _____

20. What makes it hard to keep a secret? _____

21. Suppose you saw someone you know doing something that was wrong. You have some options in how to respond, such as

- a. report the incident to the appropriate authority so that the wrongdoer gets reprimanded or punished.
- b. not report the incident to the appropriate authority, but speak directly to the wrongdoer to encourage him or her to make it right and not do it again.
- c. not report the incident to the appropriate authority, or speak directly to the wrongdoer, but talk about the incident with others.
- d. say nothing to anybody, and go on with your life as if the incident never happened.

Which of the options above do you think takes the most courage? _____

Which of the options above do you think would be the most pleasing to God? _____

Which of the options above do you suppose you would be most likely to choose? _____