

X: the ten

Don't spread lies about people. Sermon Study Guide 10|30|16

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Guiding Questions for Chapter Groups, Family or Solo Study:

As we continue talking about the Ten Commandments, we're also trying to memorize them. Try completing this by memory:

Tablet 1: Relationship with _____.

- You shall have no _____.
- You shall not make or worship _____.
- You shall not misuse _____.
- Remember the _____.

Tablet 2: Relationships with _____.

- Honor your _____.
- You shall not _____.

Today we're taking a closer look at the 9th Commandment: "You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor." **What did this commandment mean in context?**

Why was truthful legal testimony so important 3,400 years ago?

What are some of the most common ways people lie about other people?

What are your 'blind spots' when it comes to gossip and slander?

Scripture and Quotes:

Exodus 20:16 You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

Exodus 23:1 Do not spread false reports. Do not help a guilty person by being a malicious witness.

Leviticus 19:16 Do not go around spreading slander among your people.

Proverbs 11:13 A gossip betrays a confidence, but a trustworthy person keeps a secret.

Proverbs 16:28 A perverse person stirs up conflict, and a gossip separates close friends.

Proverbs 25:18 Like a club or a sword or a sharp arrow is one who gives false testimony against a neighbor.

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The Bible offers plenty of warnings about the effects of gossip on a society (see examples on the right); there are more Bible verses about gossip than about divorce, stealing, and murder. **Why do you think the Word of God gives so much attention to a seemingly innocuous sin?**

How did Jesus fulfill this Commandment? What does slander say about the slanderer? What does truth say about the truth-teller? (See John 8 passage to the right)

"Everything you say should be _____, but not everything that's _____ should be _____."

What are some practical, real-life applications of this teaching? Can you think of any scenarios in which you'll be tempted to slander someone this week?

How should a follower of Jesus respond to these situations? Does it make a difference if those gossiping are Christians, too?

What are two or three things you can do differently to not bear false witness against a neighbor?

Pray: God, instill in me the compassion of Christ, so that when I'm tempted to spread rumors about others, I resist and keep silent to preserve their dignity. Give me the courage of Christ, so that when I hear others spreading gossip, I speak up and defend the defenseless. Give me the character of Christ, so I'll know how to encourage people without

Proverbs 26:20 Without wood a fire goes out; without a gossip a quarrel dies down.

Luke 6:31 "Do to others as you would have them do to you."

John 8:42-44 Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me...[but] you belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

Ephesians 4:29 Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

James 1:26 Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless.

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enabling sin, and how to sharpen a brother or sister without condemning them. Amen.

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