



**CHRISTIAN
ENDEAVOUR**
for Christ and the Church



The Ten Commandments

Lies ... lies

You shall not give false testimony

Exodus 20:16

Teaching Aim

To show how important it is to tell the truth.

Setting the scene

Jean told her mum that she had no homework to do that night so that she could watch her favourite TV programme. The next day, she told her teacher that she hadn't her homework with her because her brother had torn it up. Did Jean do anything wrong? Let's see what God says.

Reasons for lying

Read Exodus 20:16. God forbids telling lies against anyone who is innocent and saying anything which is untrue. Do you know who told the first lie? Let's read Genesis 3:1-13. The serpent (devil) came to Adam and Eve in the lovely garden God had placed them in. He put doubts in Eve's mind about what God had forbidden them to do. What did God say would happen if they ate fruit from the forbidden tree? What did the devil tell them? They believed the devil and disobeyed God. Sin came into the world and with it death for Adam and Eve and everyone born thereafter. The devil tries to make us sin against God and lying is one way that we do this. People may lie because they are afraid, jealous, selfish, proud etc. Can you think of the sort of lies you might be tempted to tell in the following situations? - at school, at home, with friends, at church.

Results of lying

If you tell a lie, you're likely to go on and tell other lies to cover up for the first one. Telling lies can also lead to other sins. Absalom, one of King David's sons, told his father a lie, saying he was going to keep a vow at Hebron; instead, he was planning to overthrow his father. What other Commandment did he break? - Fifth. God hates sin for He is holy. He does not lie and always does what He says. Jesus described the devil as, "a liar and the father of lies" John 8:44. If we tell lies, it shows that we are not obeying God, we're obeying the devil and this is very serious. God has warned that He will punish those who tell lies. In the Old Testament anyone found guilty of telling lies about someone else was to be put to death. In the New Testament Paul included "liars" in the list he gave of those who break God's Commandments. Ananias and Sapphira were struck down dead for telling lies - read Acts 5:1-11. God's word warns us that liars who have not asked for forgiveness will never get into heaven - see Rev 22:15. Don't be like so many who see little harm in telling lies. Lies can destroy ourselves and other people and place us under God's condemnation. God's command still stands.

We can't get away with telling lies for God sees everything we say and do.

Resisting lying

Lying is a very serious sin so how can we keep from telling lies? The devil is too powerful for us on our own. We need to have God's help to overcome the temptation to tell lies. The first step we must take is say sorry to God for all the wrong things we have done, including lying, and ask Him to forgive us and help us to obey Him instead of the devil. If we respect ourselves and others, then, with God's help, we can resist the devil when he puts thoughts of lying into our head. Before we open our mouths to say something we should ask ourselves if it's true. We mustn't go with the crowd if they're telling lies about someone or something. We need to stand up for others if we hear someone saying untruthful things about them. If we remain silent, we will be guilty of telling lies.

Remember Peter denied Jesus, but he repented and Jesus forgave him. Think for a few moments silently about lies you have told. If you're really sorry, ask God to forgive you and then pray as the Psalmist David did in Psalm 141:3.

Summing up

God forbids us to tell lies about ourselves or others. The devil tries to make us sin against God by telling untruths. We may find ourselves in situations where telling a lie might seem to be the easy way out. Always remember that God hears everything you say so you can not deceive Him. It's not always easy to tell the truth but, if you ask God, He will help you to avoid lies. Will you ask Him to help you?

Resources

Memory Verse

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

Activities

Under 8s Activity Sheet "Ninth Commandment - You shall not give false testimony - 1".

Over 8s Activity Sheet "Ninth Commandment - You shall not give false testimony - 2".

Prayer Points

Pray for:

- People that others have told lies about.
- Strength to tell the truth at all times.

Thank God that:

- He forgives us if we're really sorry for telling lies.
- He helps us not to tell lies.

Lies ... lies

The first lie

Replace the missing words in the conversation between the devil and Eve with words from the given lists.

The Devil

Eve

"Did God _____ say, 'You must _____ eat from any _____ in the garden'?"

not tree really

"You will not surely _____, "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be _____, and you will be like God, knowing _____ and evil."

good opened die

We may eat _____ from the trees in the garden, but God did say, "You _____ not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not _____ it, or you will die".

touch fruit must

Memory Verse

Can you read this message? (It is written in mirror writing)

YoU sHaLl noT giVe fAlse tEsTimoNy AgAinst yoUr neIghboR. ExoDus 20:16

Write in mirror writing

Satan told the first lie

Lies ... lies

Peter denies Christ three times

Fill in the missing words from the lists below.

First Lie

Peter was warming himself by the _____ when one of the _____ girls looked closely at him, and said "You also were with that Nazarene, Jesus". Peter denied it and said, "I don't know or _____ what you're _____ about".

talking, servant, fire, understand

Second Lie

Peter moved to the entrance and when the servant girl saw him there, she said _____ to those standing around, "This fellow is _____ of them." Again Peter _____ it.

denied, again, one

Third Lie

A little later, those standing near said to Peter, "_____ you are one of them, for you are a _____ ." Peter began to call down _____ on himself, and he swore to them, "I don't know this man you're _____ about."

curses, talking, surely, Galilean

Repentance

Immediately the _____ crowed the second time. Then Peter _____ the word Jesus had spoken to him: "Before the cock crows _____ you will disown me three times." And he broke down and _____ .

cock, wept, remembered, twice

Peter meets the risen Christ

John 21:15-19

Peter and some other disciples had been out fishing all night and caught nothing. At dawn Jesus was on the shore and told them to throw their net on the right side of the boat. When they did this they caught a large number of fish and it was only then that they recognised Jesus. After they had breakfast, Jesus asked Peter three questions. **Fill in the missing words.**

"Simon son of _____, do you truly love me more than these?"

"Simon son of John, do you truly love me?"

"Simon son of John, do you _____ me?"

"Yes, _____, you know that I love you."

"Yes, Lord, you _____ that I love you."

"Lord, you _____ all things; you know that I _____ you."

"_____ my lambs."

"Take _____ of my sheep."

"Feed my _____."

Jesus said to Peter, "Follow me!"