



The Ten Commandments

Nothing but the truth

You shall not give false testimony

Exodus 20:16

Teaching Aim

To show how serious it is to tell lies.

Setting the scene

"Sure it was only a wee white lie!" Have you ever heard anyone say that or even said it yourself when challenged about not telling the truth? Is there any difference between a so called "white lie" and other lies? All lies are contrary to the truth and come under God's judgement. What does the Ninth Commandment teach us about lies and truth?

God hates lying

Read Exodus 20:16. What does God forbid in this Commandment? Brainstorm reasons why people tell lies - e.g. fear, pride, jealousy, hatred, ambition. Who told the first lie? - read Genesis 3:1-4. What did the devil say that led to the down fall of Adam and Eve? - He appealed to Eve's ambition to be like God and have all knowledge. She believed his lie. She and Adam disobeyed God and sin entered the world. So all lying comes from the devil. He deceives us into thinking that his ways lead to pleasure and satisfaction whereas they lead us into sin which makes a mess of our lives. The devil also tempts us to tell lies. What sort of lies does he want you to tell? - lying to your parents about where you're going or who you're going out with, lying to your teacher about why you haven't your homework done, passing on gossip about someone which may not be true. There are many ways of breaking this Commandment. Jesus was the victim of lies because the religious leaders were jealous of Him. They set out to kill Him because He showed up their sin - read Mark 14:55-59. Many were prepared to give false witness against the sinless Son of God. How does Jesus describe the devil - John 8:44? Nobody likes a liar yet many do what the devil does. Why did Jesus say He came into the world - John 18:37? What did He say those who want to tell the truth should do - John 18:37? God hates lies for He is truth. We must follow His example.

God punishes lying

Read Acts 4:32 - 5:10. The believers who had possessions were sharing them with those who were poor. Were they compelled to do this? Why then were they doing it? - showing love and concern for others as Christ had done. What was different about the actions of Ananias and Sapphira - Acts 5:2? In what way was Ananias telling a lie? - pretending to give all the money in front of the other believers. This was hypocrisy and deceit for they were giving the impression that they were doing the same as

the others but it was just for show. You must be careful that you don't live a lie by pretending that you're a Christian if you're not. Was it to the other believers that they were lying - v4? God sees and knows the truth about us so we can't deceive Him. When Sapphira was asked about the price of the ground she also lied because they had both agreed to do so. What happened to them - Acts 5: 5-6 and 10-11? Does this seem very harsh punishment? It shows how seriously God looks on giving false testimony and should warn us to avoid lying.

God forgives lying

If God was to strike down everyone in your group who has told a lie, who would survive? - only those who have asked for forgiveness. Read Mark 14:66-72. What lies did Peter tell? Why do you think Peter denied Jesus? - perhaps it was through fear and this seemed the easy way out; maybe he had been overconfident of his own ability to stand up for Jesus and hadn't asked for God's help in the time of temptation.

Read Revelation 21:8, 27 and 22:15 to find out what God says will happen to those who are liars. Was this the end for Peter since he had lied? - no, he repented of what he had done- read Mark 14:72 again. How do we know God forgave him? - read John 21:15-17. God called Peter back into service and he served Him faithfully for the rest of his life. God is truth and justice. He is also love, grace and mercy. Those who do not repent of their lies will be closed out of heaven. Those who repent and ask for forgiveness will receive it. Are you still deserving of God's punishment or have you received His mercy?

Summing up

We have all broken this Commandment in some way. Spend a few moments in silence thinking about ways you have broken it. You need to admit this to God and ask for forgiveness. Then decide, with His help, to tell the truth and resist the devil.

Resources

Discussion

- What questions should you ask yourself before you share some unhelpful gossip about someone?
- A friend has just got a new hairstyle which they think is great. You think it's wick! What do you say when they ask if you like it?
- If you were told someone was "economical with the truth", would you trust them?
- Is it right to tell a person diagnosed terminally ill the full extent of their illness?

Activities

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

Prayer Points

Thank God that:

- He forgives us when we repent of telling lies.
- He gives us the power to overcome the devil when he tempts us to tell lies.

Pray that:

- You will be able to tell the truth in love to others.
- That you will resist the temptation to tell a lie to get you out of a difficult situation.

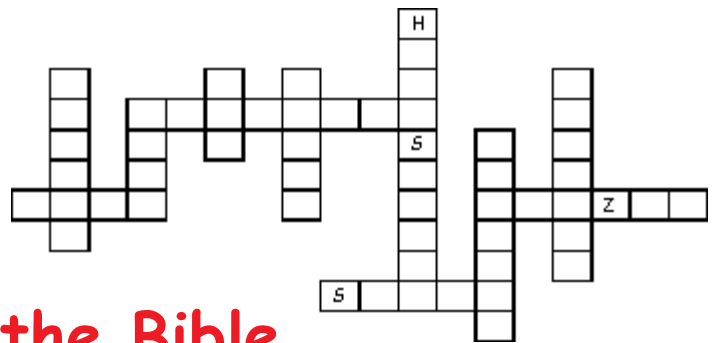
Nothing but the truth

Word Grid

Complete the sentences from the word bank below and then place the words in the grid.

Peter, husband, God, carried, property, feet, part, Satan, Holy Spirit, seized, buried

- Ananias and his wife, Sapphira, sold a piece of _____.
- Ananias kept back _____ of the money for himself but brought the rest and put it at the apostles' feet.
- Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that _____ has so filled your heart that you have lied to the _____ _____?"
- Peter told Ananias that he had not lied to men but to _____.
- Ananias fell down and died and great fear _____ all who heard what had happened.
- The young men came forward, wrapped up his body, and carried him out and _____ him.
- His wife did not know this and later came in. When _____ asked her if the money Ananias had given was the price they had got for the land?", she replied, "Yes, that is the price."
- Peter said to her, "How could you agree to test the Spirit of the Lord? Look! The feet of the men who buried your _____ are at the door, and they will carry you out also."
- When Peter said this, she fell down at his _____ and died.
- The young men came in and, finding her dead, _____ her out and buried her beside her husband.



Lies in the Bible

Bible Reference	Who lied?	What was the lie?
Gen 4:9		
Gen 27:19		
Gen 18:12-15		
Gen 37:31-32		
1Sam 15:13-14		
1Sam 21:2		
Matt 26:9-14		
Acts 5:3		