

MONTHLY BIBLE STUDY



TEN COMMANDMENTS #9

PASTORAL NOTE: As with other studies in this series, it is our desire to look at the bigger picture as we take these commandments seriously. The goal is to draw us closer to Jesus Christ in both relationship and holiness through discipleship.

1. Write down as many of the Ten Commandments as you can, in numerical order.
2. Read Exodus 20:16, Commandment # 9. "You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor." (NIV)
3. This verse could be applied to giving false testimony in a court of law, known today as perjury. In a more general sense, it is telling lies about others. Let's look at the more general sense of the verse today.
4. How do you define the word lie? One definition is "to speak falsely or utter untruth knowingly, as with intent to deceive." "An intentional untruth, a falsehood." (Dictionary.com)
5. On a scale of 1 to 10, rate how bad the following lies are:
 - ___ Friends invite you for supper and the meal is so terrible it makes you nauseous. The cook asks how you enjoyed it and you say "I've never seen those particular ingredients put together that way."
 - ___ You call in sick, then go to the lake.
 - ___ You say "I love your outfit" when you really don't.
 - ___ You say "The check is in the mail" when it isn't.
 - ___ You say "I was just getting ready to call you" when you weren't.
 - ___ You say "I forgot" when you didn't.
 - ___ You say "I didn't do it" when you did. Or you blame someone else when it was you.

Based on your personal ratings of these scenarios, is it ever OK to lie? Justify your answer with Scripture.

6. Have someone read Proverbs 6:17-19; 12:22.
7. **Gossip** is another way we can lie. Gossip is a form of slander or character assassination and constitutes a lie. Gossip topples governments, wrecks marriages, ruins careers, destroys reputations, and generates grief. Even speaking the word "gossip" makes a hissing sound like a serpent. See Proverbs 16:28; 26:20.

8. The antithesis, or opposite of a lie is the **TRUTH**. Jesus uses the term “I tell you the truth” well over 100 times in the Gospels and truth is used over 175 times in the New Testament. Obviously Jesus puts great store in truth telling! That’s because Jesus is the embodiment of **TRUTH**. Read John 14:6. Paul includes “truthful speaking” as an admirable character trait in 2 Corinthians 6:3-10.
9. Someone developed a great acronym for use on this subject. The acronym is **THINK**. Think before you speak (always a good idea). Proverbs 20:19 (NIV), “A gossip betrays a confidence; so avoid anyone who talks too much.” Apply the **THINK** principal before you speak – it can help keep you from telling lies or gossip. **THINK** – ask yourself - is the thing -

- T** – Truthful?
- H** – Helpful?
- I** – Inspiring (uplifting, encouraging)?
- N** – Necessary?
- K** – Kind?

THINK before you speak. If whatever you heard or whatever you would like to say doesn’t pass the **THINK** test – then **DON’T SAY IT!**

What does Jesus say in Matthew 12:34-37 and Luke 6:45?

PRAYER: Ask God to give you a heart overflowing with love and a mouth that always speaks the truth from that love.