

SPEAKING THE TRUTH IN LOVE

The Ninth Commandment

“You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.”

Exodus 20:16; Deuteronomy 5:20; see also Genesis 39: 17-20; Exodus 23:1-8; 1 Kings 21:1-16; Psalms 5:6; 58:3; 101:7; Proverbs 6:16-19; 10:18; 12:19, 22; 14:25; 18:21; 19:9; 24:28; 26:28; Mark 14:55-59; Acts 6:13; Ephesians 4:25; James 3:6-8; Revelation 21:8

NEGATIVE PROHIBITION

Deuteronomy 19:18-19; 1 Corinthians 6:10; 1 Peter 2:1

Leviticus 19:16; Proverbs 18:8; 20:19; Matthew 18:15

Leviticus 5:1; James 4:17

POSITIVE ALTERNATIVE

Proverbs 31:8

Ecclesiastes 3:7

Ephesians 4:29

TRANSFORMED BY THE TRUTH

Questions for Reflection & Discussion

1. Read Exodus 20:16. Why do you think lying is such a big deal to God?
2. Read 1 Peter 2:1. In what ways are you tempted to skip fact-checking and go straight to slander? How can you commit yourself and help others to change this pattern?
3. Read Leviticus 19:16 and Proverbs 20:19. What steps can you take to break the chain of gossip before good people are hurt by it?
4. Read Ecclesiastes 3:7 and James 4:17. When have you been silent because you lacked the courage to speak up? How can you summon bravery the next time you are in a similar situation?
5. Read Ephesians 4:29. When have you benefitted by another person's obedience to this verse? Who needs you to obey it for their edification right now?