

## **EXODUS: A PEOPLE BECOMING**

### *LIFE GROUP LEADER GUIDE*

Sermon Date: Sunday, October 12, 2025

Sermon Passage: Exodus 20:16

*Pastor Justin Lett*

## **FACILITATING COMMUNITY**

At New Hope Hermitage, we strive for people to come to Jesus, become more like Jesus, and be who Jesus intended them to be. While biblical worship and teaching are of the utmost importance, we know that biblical community is where life transformation occurs mostly. A true community isn't just a place to talk about faith—it's a place to live it out together as we seek for Hermitage to look more like Heaven.

As a leader, your role is to model care and consistency and facilitate discussion. You don't need to be perfect; you just need to be present and willing to go first to build something deeper.

### ***What patterns should I incorporate into my life to help foster a sense of community?***

- **Pray.** Pray for the Spirit to move during your group time and in the lives of the people in your group.
- **Prepare.** Listen to the sermon and allow the Spirit to work in and through you. Afterward, take the time to answer the five questions on your own.
- **Presence.** Reach out with a quick text or call to check on someone or their family. Acknowledge important events such as birthdays, anniversaries, new jobs, or answered prayers. Even a group text or card can make a significant impact.
- **Pursue.** Most importantly, walk with Jesus. Nothing can replace your personal relationship with Him.

### **One idea for this week...**

- This week, find one way to encourage someone by telling them how you are seeing God work in their lives.

*Colossians 2:6-7 (NIV), "So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness."*

## LEADER GUIDE

### This Week's Main Takeaway

In this ninth commandment, we will see that God is truth, and He desires truth from His people. This stems from the belief that God hates lies because He loves people, and so should we.

### This Week's Memory Verse

*Exodus 20:16 (NIV), "You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor."*

### Five Inductive Questions

#### 1. GOD :: What does this passage imply about *God*?

God is incapable of lying (Titus 1:2).

God, full of grace and truth Himself, calls us to love Him with all that we are, and then, love our neighbor as ourselves (Matthew 22:37-40). That is to love others more than ourselves (Philippians 2:4-5). This is the first commandment to use the word "neighbor," and speaks to "anyone else you happen to come in contact with."

*God can't lie. What does this tell you about God?*

#### 2. MAN :: What does this passage imply about *man*?

Bearing false testimony exposes the lack of character within us and dishonors our neighbor.

Bearing false testimony goes beyond telling "a little white lie." This commandment uses courtroom language, which is about lying under oath to get your "neighbor" convicted for something they did not do. This idea, however, is not limited to the courtroom, for nothing extends outside "the courtroom of God." We will all be held accountable for our words. Furthermore, bearing false testimony exposes the lack of character within us and dishonors our neighbor. Old Testament law required the testimony of two witnesses for something to be true.

*How does bearing false testimony hurt other image bearers of God (our neighbors)? What is the danger in categorizing our words as "only little white lies?"*

### **3. PROMISE :: Is there a *promise* to claim in this passage?**

God's love is seen in His complete truthfulness.

The lies spoken over us do not come from God. Why? Because we are His long before lies enter our lives and deceit is spoken to us. Our identity is in what God says about us, not in how people define us. In this passage, the Lord's righteousness and justice were to be reflected in Israel's life as a nation. This comes from God's heart and love for people.

### **4. COMMAND :: Is there a *command* to obey in this passage?**

Rather than providing false testimony, we are called to live truthfully and honestly.

The heart of God behind this command is a love for people. God hates lies because He loves people, and so should we. Implied in this law is the requirement for honesty in all one's affairs.

### **5. REPENT :: Reflecting on this portion of God's Word, what can I *repent* of this week?**

*Will you protect your neighbor with words?*

#### *Sources:*

*The New American Commentary, Exodus (Holman Reference)*

*Exalting Jesus in Exodus (B&H Publishing)*

*CSB Study Bible Notes (B&H Publishing)*

*ESV Study Bible Notes (Crossway)*