

GOSPEL COMMUNITY GUIDE

Life WITH God : The Ten Commandments

Exodus 20:16 | September 28, 2025



CONNECT

When you were young, what is one of the first (or biggest) lies you remember telling?

QUICK UPDATES

Share any upcoming church events and handle housekeeping for the Gospel Community.

REVIEW

Have someone read the passage out loud from the ESV translation or something similar. Reflect on any insights, questions, or parts that stood out from the text or the sermon. Then read the summary below.

Exodus 20:16 commands, "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor." While this originally addressed courtroom testimony, its scope extends to all of life: God's people are called to reflect His truthfulness in every word and deed, because where there is truth, there is trust. The sermon showed how lies come in many forms; spin, deception, gossip, slander, assumptions, and how they destroy relationships and align us with Satan, the father of lies. It also warned of the cultural lies we are tempted to believe about identity, happiness, and even the gospel itself. But the good news is that Jesus is the Faithful Witness who never lied, even when condemned by false witnesses; through Him we are forgiven, healed, and empowered by His Spirit to turn from lies and treasure the truth.

LEARN & LIVE

These questions help us grasp the truth of the passage and consider how to live it out.

- Read Exodus 20:16. Why do you think God includes truthfulness about our neighbor as part of His covenant commands?
- In Israel's courtroom setting, life and land often depended on truthful testimony. What does this teach us about the weight of our words today?
- Since God cannot lie (Titus 1:2; Numbers 23:19), how should His truthfulness shape the way we speak and act?
- Proverbs 6:16-19 says God "hates a lying tongue." How do lies damage relationships with God and with others?
- How does the serpent's lie in Genesis 3:1-7 show the destructive power of falsehood? What warnings does this give us for our own lives?
- Jesus calls Satan "the father of lies" (John 8:44). How does remembering this change how we view the "small" lies we're tempted to tell?
- The sermon said, "Where there is truth, there is trust." How have you seen this to be true in friendships, family, or church life?
- Of the examples listed (spin, deception, gossip, slander, assumptions), which one do you see most at work in our culture - or in yourself? How might God be calling you to respond?
- Romans 12:2 calls us to be transformed by renewing our minds in God's truth. What practices help you resist the lies of the world and stay rooted in Scripture?
- Jesus is called the Faithful Witness (Rev. 1:5; John 14:6). How does His perfect truthfulness both comfort you and challenge you to reflect Him in your words?

GO DEEPER

These questions invite us to slow down and wrestle with what's going on beneath the surface. Use these to go a little deeper or in your Huddle Groups.

- Why do you think lying feels so natural to us? Where do you most often feel tempted to twist or hide the truth?
- Can you recall a time when someone's lie damaged your trust? How does that experience help you understand why God hates lying?
- When you spin a story to make yourself look better, what deeper heart-desires are you serving?
- Which of the "lies we buy" (identity, happiness, gospel lies) do you feel most vulnerable to believing?
- What are some subtle ways Christians can participate in gossip or slander, even when we think we're "sharing concerns"?
- How has social media made it easier to break the ninth commandment? What might faithfulness look like online?
- The sermon said, "Where there is truth, there is trust." Where do you need to rebuild trust in a relationship by walking in the truth?
- How does seeing Jesus as the faithful witness (who was lied about, yet never lied) comfort and convict you?
- What rhythms or practices could help you treasure God's truth daily and resist cultural lies?
- Imagine your family, friendships, or church community marked by deep truthfulness. What would be different? How can you play a role in shaping that?
- **How is the Spirit inviting you personally to respond and what will you do differently this week?**

PRAY

- Pray about one way God spoke to you tonight through His Word.
- Pray by name for someone in your life who doesn't yet know Jesus.
- Pray for the needs of those in the group.
- Pray for this ministry area of Redeemer: **THE MEN of REDEEMER** | Take time to pray for the men, young and old, of our church family.

5 GROUP DISCUSSION RULES

We want to be full of grace as we meet, deepening our relationship with one another and with Christ. These five values help us know our **P.L.A.C.E.** in our GC's and Huddles.

1. **Pray** - Prayer is a space for confession, struggle, and praise. Keep requests focused on yourself and your immediate family, so we can pray specifically and personally.
2. **Listen** - Be present and attentive. Share with humility, be mindful of time, and remember: silence is okay.
3. **Apply** - Answer honestly. Consider how God's Word speaks into your life, and what it might look like to respond.
4. **Confess** - Confession and repentance are signs of maturity. We meet one another with grace, not shame.
5. **Encourage** - Practical advice is helpful, but truth is better. Speak the gospel into each other's hearts and stories.

COMMENTARY EXCERPT:

Ninth commandment. In the final two commandments we proceed from prohibitions involving actions to prohibitions involving words and thoughts respectively. This concludes the downward progression of priorities which we have observed. The ninth commandment emphasizes the importance of truthfulness. While the prohibition against false testimony was primarily intended for a court of law, it may be extended to include any situation in which untrue words are used to harm another individual.

Alexander, T. D. (1994). Exodus. In D. A. Carson, R. T. France, J. A. Motyer, & G. J. Wenham (Eds.), New Bible commentary: 21st century edition (4th ed., p. 108). Inter-Varsity Press.