**THE CHURCH IN NEW YORK CITY**

**CHILDREN’S MEETING LESSON**

**DATE:** July 14, 2019

**SUBJECT: THE TEN COMMANDMENTS: The Ninth Commandment (1 of 3):** **You Shall Not Testify With False Testimony Against Your Neighbor**

**SCRIPTURE:** Exodus 20:16; Deuteronomy 5:20; Proverbs 12:22; John 8:44; 1 John 5:20; Hebrews 6:18; Ephesians 4:25

**AIM:** Our God is true, and all of His words are true. God hates lying lips. We should obey our conscience and always tell the truth, even if it means getting into trouble.

**SUGGESTED MEMORY VERSES:** Exodus 20:16 (You shall not testify with false testimony against your neighbor.); Ephesians 4:25a (Therefore having put off the lie, speak truth...)

**SUGGESTED SONGS:** 10 (Inside Me); 11 (Oh, Be Careful!); 3115 (How Do You Obey God’s Word?); 9522 *Bible Story Songs Vessels Unto Honor, Song #2* (Everything We Do and Say); 9530 *BSS Vessels Unto Honor, Song #10* (Speak Truth, Speak Truth); 4308 (Lying Lips Are Abomination to the Lord); 9432 (Your Word Is Truth)

**CRAFT IDEAS:** Make a paper plate lion similar to the one shown here. Glue on a verse and a label that says: *No ‘Lyin’. Always Tell the Truth!* Image taken from: https://www.greenmangomore.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/lion\_plate\_wht.jpg

**APPROACH:** Ask the children if they were ever in a situation when they were scared to tell the truth. Why? What did they do? Or present a scenario where they might be reluctant to tell the truth, *e.g., You were supposed to be doing homework and you were playing computer games instead. Your parents asked if your homework is done -* feel free to develop other examples and ask what they would do.

**CONTENT:** The ninth commandment is **“You shall not testify with false testimony against your neighbor” (Exodus 20:16).** To testify with false testimony is to speak anything that is false in nature. We should not lie and speak something that is not true. The ninth commandment shows us that our God is the God of truth. God is real; God is true (Romans 3:4; 1 John 5:20). God’s Word and the words of the Lord Jesus are all true words (John 17:17). In fact, one thing that God cannot do is lie (Hebrews 6:18). Because He is true, He requires that we, His people, also be truthful, honest and responsible, in our speech.

The devil is called the “father of lies” (John 8:44). Since we are God’s people, we should not be like the devil, who lies.

How does the Lord feel when we lie? “Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord” (Proverbs 12:22). Abomination is a very strong word which means something that is *greatly* hated.

We should be those who tell the truth, even when it is hard to do so. In Mark chapter 5, the Lord Jesus was walking and being followed by a great crowd. One woman in the crowd had been sick for a long time – twelve years! – and reached out behind the Lord and touched the hem of His garment. She was healed immediately and Jesus knew that someone had touched him. When the Lord Jesus asked, “Who touched My garments?” the disciples did not know. There were so many people; they said it was not possible to know who did it. The woman could have easily run away and nobody would have noticed. Instead she came forward, frightened and trembling, and told the Lord the whole truth. The Lord told her to go in peace (Mark 5:21-34). When we tell the whole truth we will have a peaceful feeling inside.

God created us with a kind of built in “alarm,” our conscience. Whenever we are about to lie, our conscience will warn us. We will have an uncomfortable feeling inside. If our words are not true or sincere, our conscience will protest against us and cause us to feel guilty. If we are truthful our conscience will bear witness with us that our words are true (Romans 9:1). Even if others do not catch us lying, our conscience surely will. We really need our conscience! We must treasure and listen to our conscience because God gave us our conscience in order to save us from becoming a liar. Our conscience not only preserves us but also helps us to be truthful persons for the Lord.

**SUGGESTED APPLICATIONS TO CHOOSE FROM:** *Please pray and fellowship over which applications to cover. Please do not try to cover all the applications. It is sufficient to cover just* ***one or two applications*** *which are appropriate for the age group of the children you are serving.*

* You may find yourself in a situation where you feel scared to tell the truth. Maybe you did something wrong and you think you might get in trouble. It is still best to tell the truth. One lie will often lead to others. Sometimes we may accuse others in order to avoid punishment. We should learn to follow our conscience. We need to pay attention to this inner “alarm.” When it tells us not to say something because it is a lie, we should stop right away. The more we pay attention to our conscience, the more sensitive our conscience will become.
* To be a truthful person will not only make God happy, it will make you happy as well. You will enjoy a peaceful conscience within. You will also enjoy a reputation of being trustworthy. Eventually people will know that your word is to be believed and trusted.
* If we do tell a lie, or we find out that what we said was not true, we should try to tell the truth and correct what we said as soon as possible.

Adapted from *Bringing Children from Adam to Christ–The Ten Commandments*, Vol. 3, Lesson 18, and the Church in New York City Children’s Meeting lessons: 9/11/88; 7/31/05; 7/20/14