

## THE CHURCH IN NEW YORK CITY CHILDREN'S MEETING LESSON

**DATE:** July 21, 2019

**SUBJECT: THE TEN COMMANDMENTS: The Ninth Commandment (2 of 3)—You Shall Not Testify With False Testimony Against Your Neighbor**

**SCRIPTURE:** Exodus 20:16; Genesis 27:1-29; Leviticus 19:16a; Proverbs 26:28; Psalm 19:14; 51:6; Acts 5:1-11

**AIM:** Since we belong to God, we should hate all lies in any form (exaggeration, half-truths, flattery, slander, pretension, etc.)

**SUGGESTED MEMORY VERSES:** Proverbs 12:22 (Lying lips are an abomination to Jehovah, But those who deal faithfully are His delight.); Colossians 3:9a (Do not lie to one another,...); Psalm 51:6a (Behold, You delight in truth...); 1 John 3:18 (Little children, let us not love in word nor in tongue but in deed and truthfulness.)

**SUGGESTED SONGS:** 9530 *Bible Story Songs Vessels Unto Honor Song #10* (Speak Truth); 9532 *BSS Vessels Unto Honor Song #12* (I'll Guard My Tongue From Evil); 10 (Inside Me); 11 (Oh, Be Careful); 4308 (Lying Lips are an Abomination); 9525 *BSS Vessels Unto Honor Song #5* (Guard the Good Deposit)

**CRAFT IDEAS:** (1) Draw a face of a child and add large speech bubble with the words "Speak Truth." (2) Make a bee using cutout of heart shapes and "Be Truthful." <https://www.easypeasyandfun.com/heart-bee-craft/>



**APPROACH:** Play the game of telephone with the children. Tell the first child a simple sentence. Then ask that child to whisper the sentence to the next child. Each child should continue to pass on the message until the last child hears. See whether the last child speaks the sentence accurately.

**NOTES TO SERVING ONES:** There are several kinds of lies mentioned below, along with a number of examples. Depending on your fellowship and the children's responses, you do not necessarily have to go through all of the examples. Let the Lord lead whether it makes sense to dwell on a particular example, move on, or skip altogether. Also please note that this week's lesson covers three points as below; next week's lesson will cover the last four points (silence, exaggeration, flattery and cheating).

**CONTENT:** Since we belong to God, we should love the truth and hate any form of falsehood or lies. As we covered in last week's lesson, lying is a very serious matter – an "abomination" – which means it is greatly and intensely hated by God. Lies are from God's enemy, Satan.

There are many different kinds of lies we should be aware of, such as:

- a) **An outright lie**—something said that has nothing to do with the truth, or an intentional lie. This includes lying to our parents or teachers. We may lie to avoid punishment after we have done something wrong, such as blaming our brother or sister after breaking a vase. Giving an untrue excuse about why you don't have your homework or signing your parents' name to a test as if they saw it are lies. Even though a lie may not get caught right away we should not think that it will never get exposed. Sometimes one's lie gets exposed later, so we should not be so sure that we "got away with it." In any case, even if one does not get caught their conscience is defiled and this damages their humanity.

- b) **A careless lie**—reckless speech, passing on stories that you are not even sure of. This includes spreading rumors. (Exodus 23:1 – “You shall not bear a false report...”); (Proverbs 16:28 – “A perverse man spreads strife, And a whisperer separates close friends.”) We may think a story we heard from someone is true, but we did not *make sure* that it is true, and we end up spreading a lie. Also we may have misheard, and end up speaking a lie.
- c) **A half-truth**—to present a partial truth as if it is the whole; seemingly telling the truth, but leaving out an important part of the truth. For example, telling your parents that you went to your friend’s house after school, but leaving out the fact that while you were there, you watched a T.V. show that you’re not allowed to watch at home. Satan in the form of a serpent used this kind of lie to tempt Eve to eat the fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Another example of a partial truth is Ananias and Sapphira in Acts chapter 5, in which they gave the impression that they were giving *all* of the proceeds from the sale of their land, but in fact it was only partial.

**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.*

- **God delights in those who tell the truth.** God’s children should be genuine, speaking what is real and true. Before we speak, we should practice asking ourselves whether what we are about to say is true. We can ask the Lord to help us tell the truth. We should pray, as King David did, that our words be acceptable in the Lord’s sight.
- **Our conscience tells us right and wrong.** We should listen to our conscience. Even if a lie seems “small”, we should not cover it up, but rather tell the truth as soon as possible. We should apologize to the person to whom we lied and tell him the truth. If we continue to tell lies, even seemingly small ones, we may lose that important feeling in our conscience.
- **When we tell the truth, we might get into trouble.** Honesty is telling the truth, regardless of the consequences. We have to accept the consequences of lying. It is possible that we may get into trouble. But we need to take care of our conscience and be right with God and man.
- **We should practice being accurate in our speaking.** As God’s children, we need to be good listeners so that we can speak accurately. If we are good listeners, then we will not mix up our facts or say something inaccurate, whether intentional or unintentional. That way, when we repeat what we heard to someone else, we do not add or delete what the first person said.

Adapted from *Bringing Children from Adam to Christ—The Ten Commandments*, Vol. 3, Lesson 19, and the Church in New York City Children’s Meeting lessons: 9/11/88, 8/7/05; 7/27/14