**THE CHURCH IN NEW YORK CITY**

**CHILDREN’S MEETING LESSON**

**DATE:** July 28, 2019

**SUBJECT: THE TEN COMMANDMENTS: The Ninth Commandment (3 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; Genesis 2:16-17, 3:1-3; Proverbs 27:6

**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 …”)

**SUGGESTED SONGS:** 9530 *BSS Vessels Unto Honor Song #10* (Speak Truth); 9532 *BSS Vessels Unto Honor* #12 (I’ll Guard My Tongue From Evil); 10 (Inside Me); 11 (Oh, Be Careful…); 2509 *BSS Matthew Song #2*  (For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks)

**CRAFT IDEAS:** Construct a word wheel craft about being truthful. See sample template (craft idea credit: <http://www.truthforkids.com/crafts-for-bible-lessons#.XTZ7CZNKjuR>, scroll to Truth-Telling).

**NOTE 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 last week’s lesson covered three points (outright lies, careless lies, and half-truths); this week’s lesson covers the last four points below.

**CONTENT:** Since we belong to God, we should love 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:

d) **Silence**—remaining silent when we should speak (Leviticus 5:1—“And if anyone sins when he hears the voice of adjuration and he is a witness, either seeing or knowing *about a matter*, if he does not speak up, then he shall bear his iniquity.”). For example, when someone asks, “Does anyone here know who wrote on the wall?” If you know who did it and still remain silent you are actually lying. When we are passive or silent in a situation, this is a sin against God.

e) **Exaggeration**—making a small thing great, an ordinary thing extraordinary. An example of exaggeration is in Genesis chapters 2 to 3, in which Eve added to God’s words. Jehovah God commanded the man, saying, “Of every tree of the garden you may eat freely. But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, of it you shall not eat; for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.” (Gen. 2:16-17) But when Eve was asked by the serpent, “Did God really say, You shall not eat of any tree of the garden?” Eve said to the serpent, “Of the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; but of the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, You shall not eat of it, **nor shall you touch it**, lest you die” (Gen. 3:1-3) (emphasis added). If you read the verses carefully, you will notice that God had not prohibited them to touch it, but Eve added to what God said by saying “nor shall you touch it.”

We may exaggerate by saying that we are the fastest runner in our school when there are others who are faster, or that we are so hungry we can eat a whole pizza pie, when in fact we can eat two slices. We should be accurate.

f) **Flattery**—to compliment or praise beyond the truth, usually done for a selfish motive. It is a lie. For example, we should not tell someone that their sneakers or shirt are very nice if we do not mean it. (Proverbs 27:6) (“Faithful are the wounds of a friend, But the kisses of an enemy are profuse.”)

g) **Cheating**—Cheating is to violate rules or regulations, or to take a test in a dishonest way. For example, looking over at someone else’s paper while taking a test, or having the answers ahead of time is cheating. Copying another student’s homework is cheating. Another example is playing hide-and-seek, but peeking to see where people are hiding when you should have your eyes completely closed.

**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.*

* **We should listen to our conscience.** Our conscience tells us right and wrong. 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. Also, when we tell the truth, we might get into trouble. But we will feel good inside for telling the truth and for listening to our conscience.
* **We should speak 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.God delights in those who tell the truth so we should always tell the truth. We should pray, as King David did, that our words be acceptable in the Lord’s sight.
* **We should speak accurately.** God’s children should also be accurate. We should be good listeners. 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; 8/03/14