

NO FALSE WITNESS

FROM LIES THAT WOUND TO TRUTH THAT BUILDS

Sermon Questions

1. What is a great treasure that we should thank God for? _____
2. The 9th commandment is commonly understood to be: _____
3. List two examples in Scripture where deception was commended:

4. There are times when a false report is justified to _____ the innocent.
5. The 9th commandment forbids a false report that _____ the innocent.
6. List two examples in Scripture of a false report that condemned the innocent:

7. A false witness goes beyond a selfish lie. It is an especially evil lie that harms another person. (True/False)
8. What common sin is a type of "false witness"? _____
9. When falsely accused, Christians must trust the _____ to be their defender (1 Cor 4:5).
10. List the three positive implications of this commandment:
 - i. Speak _____
 - ii. Love your _____ with your _____
 - iii. _____ the innocent
11. What is our motivation to do these things?

Discussion Questions

1. The sermon distinguished between general lying (forbidden) and “bearing false witness against your neighbor” (a specific, harmful form of deception aimed at condemning the innocent). Why do you think God worded it this way, rather than simply saying “Do not lie”? How does this help us see the unique damage caused by lies that attack someone’s reputation or bring unjust consequences?
2. The sermon emphasized loving our neighbor through our words—encouraging, comforting, commending, and sharing Christ—rather than tearing down with slander or gossip. Think about a recent interaction where your words could have been more loving or truthful. What would it look like this week to replace harmful speech (or silence) with words that do good and build up?
3. Where in your life (e.g., work, social media, family interactions) do you struggle to speak truth consistently. How does this commandment challenge you to speak truth to build up and reflect our God of truth?
4. A key call was to defend the innocent and speak up against injustice, rather than remaining silent. Where in our world (e.g., issues like abortion, exploitation of children, or other injustices mentioned) do you see a need for Christians to be true witnesses defending the voiceless? What fears hold you back from speaking up, and how does the gospel encourage us to act as defenders, imitating our God who defends the weak?
5. What was your most significant take-away from this passage and sermon?

Discussion Questions for Children

1. The Bible says, “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor” (which means don’t tell lies that get someone else in trouble). Can you think of a time when someone blamed you for something you didn’t do, or when you blamed a sibling or friend for something to stay out of trouble? Why do you think God tells us not to do that?
2. Sometimes kids (and grown-ups) spread stories about someone that aren’t true, like saying “They’re mean” when they’re not, and it is hurtful. Our words can build people up or tear them down. What’s one way you can use your words this week to tell the truth and be nice to someone, instead of saying something untrue or mean about them?