

TO TELL THE TRUTH

The Tender Commandments

EXODUS 20:16

Ice Breaker: Have you been on a jury? What did you think of the testimonies you heard?

BACKGROUND: Because of His great love for us, God gave us the ten commandments. In every command, we find God's tender heart of protection and affection toward us.

THE BIG PICTURE: Our words have an impact on others! Be a truth teller...with love.

DIGGING DEEPER:

1. What does this verse mean? Read EXODUS 20:16. How do our words affect others? How do lies ruin people's lives? Has anyone ever told a lie about you? What happened?

2. Why is lying such a big deal? Consider the lies told to Adam and Eve by Satan and the false testimonies against Jesus. What were the consequences of these lies?

- Read JAMES 3:8b. In what ways does lying cause our lives and relationships to suffer?
- Read JAMES 3:5-6. How does something seemingly small and insignificant create havoc and lifelong damage? Why is lying such a dangerous sin?
- Read PROVERBS 18:21. How are our words so powerful? Have you witnessed a time when words destroyed a life? brought life?

3. What qualifies as a lie?

Lie. What is your definition of a lie?

Slander. What is slander? Why is slander hurtful?

Spreading a rumor: Why is gossip dangerous? Have you ever gotten busted for repeating a story without knowing the whole story? What was the result?

Keeping silent when an untruth is told: Why is it sometimes hard to speak up for someone? Why does this make you just as guilty as if you spoke the lie yourself?

- In what area of your life do you struggle to be honest?

4. Is it ever okay to lie, perhaps to protect someone? Read JOSHUA 2:2-5, 14. How did Rahab's lie protect God's servants? Was this the right thing to do? Why or why not? What should we always do when we are confronted with difficult situations?

5. Speak the truth What does the Bible say about speaking the truth? (See Ephesians 4:25, 29-32, Colossians 3:9 & 4:5-6, John 13:34-35) What can we learn from these verses?

6. How to stop lying Telling lies is a hard habit to break. How can we stop lying? Who can we always depend on to help us tell the truth? How can He help you be a truth teller?

7. Jesus is Truth Read JOHN 14:6 & 8:31-32. How do we know the truth? What does truth bring us? What are some ways you can grow in Christlike truthfulness?

8. The Spirit of Truth Read JOHN 16:13. Why is it imperative that we rely on His Spirit?

CONCLUSION:

- How did this week's passage make a difference in your life? How will your conversations be different?
- How do you see God's love and grace in this commandment?