

June 26, 2022

Count to Ten

Important Info

Study Help

Along the way, you might consider these beneficial additional resources.

The first resource is Jen Wilkin's book "*Ten Words to Live By*." Copies of this book can be purchased before or after Sunday services at Connection Central.

The second resource is a free online commentary that can be found at <https://bit.ly/3slhfjx>



Friendly Reminder

Don't let your familiarity with the Ten Commandments prevent you from thinking deeply about what they mean in the life of the Church, and in your life specifically.

Important Dates

June 1-July 27 Summer Reading Club

June 27-July 1 Connect Camp

Additional information for these events and more can be found online at LegacyChurch.org

Scripture Memory *(optional)*

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor. - Exodus 20:16 (NIV)

Exodus 20:16 & Romans 13:8-10

Opening

The topic for this lesson will be lying, more specifically lying to damage another person. While lying should not be condoned, and not wanting to send a mixed message, we are going to begin with a game where a lie is told about oneself. However, in order to not perpetuate the lie, the end of each person's turn will reveal the lie.

To start our lesson, we will participate in the game **Two Truths and a Lie**. Each person, as time allows, will share two truths and one lie about him- or herself. Ask people to guess the lie. Reveal the lie, and then move on.

While the game is meant to be fun, what damage might be done if the lies we told continued to be shared? Why is that detrimental? How might someone add onto our own lie, making it worse or manipulating it to be hurtful?

Bible Study

The Moody Bible Commentary states that the ninth commandment "**prohibits blatant lies, any conscious deceptions, and unsubstantiated assertions (i.e., gossip and rumor).**" How would you define each of the three descriptions of bearing false witness (lies, deceptions, assertions)? Of those three, which do you most associate with damaging a person's reputation? Prior to Pastor Kevin's sermon, and any recent study, how would you have defined the ninth commandment? Has your understanding/definition changed?

In her book, *Ten Words to Live By*, Jen Wilkin gives four ways in which humans find themselves guilty of transgressing the ninth commandment. Those four ways are-

Reviling - Using words to damage or insult someone's character.

Flattery - Using words to wrongly elevate sense of self.

Silence - Not using words to defend another person. Wrongly not speaking up.

Misattribution - Using words to take credit for something or to blame others for something they haven't done.

Of those four ways, what have you seen happen in the last week? Which of these do you find yourself guilty of most often? Is there one of these four ways that you had not previously thought of as sin?

Why are the four ways that Wilken describes so detrimental to our society, whether that is the society at large or within the Church? How does the ninth commandment relate to the previous commandments?

Peter J. Leithart states "**Truthful speech is an act of love, and we are to love enemies as well as friends. In all normal circumstances, we speak truth to and about our enemies, refusing to minimize their virtues or exaggerate their faults.**" Can you recall a time where you exaggerated someone's faults? What was that situation like and what did you say? How did the situation turn out as a result of bearing false witness in this way? Did you ever reconcile with that individual? If so, what happened? If not, why? What did you learn from breaking the ninth commandment?

Consider the earthly life of Jesus. We know that He never sinned, yet He lived in situations and moments similar to ours. Maybe take a few moments and flip through the Gospels to find a situation(s) where Jesus did not sin but others did as a result of breaking the ninth commandment. What did these individuals do to break the commandment? What did Jesus do to keep from breaking the law?

Is there anything else about the ninth commandment or Pastor Kevin's sermon that you would like to discuss?

Closing

This week take an inventory of where you are tempted to bear false witness about the people around you.

Consider where you are reviling, flattering, being silent, and/or misattributing. While uncomfortable, you might consider asking those closest to you where you are guilty of such things. Once you hear this, do not seek to defend yourself. Rather, ask for their help in keeping you accountable. Pray, asking for God's mercy and help in fighting this sin. Then praise Jesus for paying the price for your sin of breaking the ninth commandment.