

LESSON 9

DO NOT GIVE FALSE TESTIMONY



BEFORE YOU TEACH

Lying

One may interpret bearing false testimony (i.e., lying) to mean giving false evidence or testimony publicly in court or in the presence of elders. But the commandment was certainly not exclusive to false public statements. Lying is to give a false statement with the intent to deceive. The Bible condemns different forms of lying: lying to perpetrate fraud (Lev 6:2-3), lying that leads to a wrongful condemnation (Dt 19:15-16), and lying committed by false prophets (Jer 14:14). The Bible records Cain's evasive answer to God, Jacob's attempt to fool Isaac, Gehazi's misrepresentation of Elisha and the deception of Ananias and Sapphira as lies. The Bible records that all habitual liars forfeit eternal salvation (Rev 21:27).

Inherited Land

When the Israelites entered Canaan, Joshua allocated land to each tribe by casting lots. The tribes and families viewed their land as a gift from God. They marked the boundaries of their land by using landmarks, such as a heap of stones or mountains and rivers. The landmarks were not to be moved, because to do so was to alter the gift of God. Since their land was an inheritance from God, the Israelites were not to sell their land. Doing so would mean dishonoring God. This is why Naboth refused to sell his vineyard to King Ahab.

A family may sell their land during extreme financial difficulties. During the Year of Jubilee, which occurs every fifty years, the land is to be returned to the original owner (Lev 25:13-17). If a member of the family that sold the land is able to raise enough money to buy back the land, the land is to be returned to the original family immediately.

BIBLE TEXT

1 Kings 21:1-28; 22:29-40
2 Kings 9:30-37

BIBLE TRUTH

It is a sin to lie.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. To understand that it is a sin to lie and to hurt others with lies.
2. To know that God will punish those who lie.

MEMORY VERSE

"You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor."

(Exodus 20:16)

PRAYER

In the name of the Lord Jesus, we pray. Lord Jesus, thank You for keeping us safe throughout the week so that we are able to come to church to worship and praise You and to listen to Your words. Thank You for giving us the Ten Commandments. Today, we are going to learn about the ninth commandment, which tells us not to bear false witness against our neighbors. You hate lies. Our lies harm others and they hurt You. We are sorry for the times we have lied. Help us, Lord, to always tell the truth. Give us courage to admit when we have not spoken the truth and forgive us for our weaknesses. Lord, You are the truth and we should also be truthful. Hallelujah! Amen.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR STUDENTS

No one needs to be taught how to lie. It comes naturally to everyone, so it is no wonder that God gave the ninth commandment. Therefore, it is important that your students have a good understanding of the seriousness of lying.

Children lie for a variety of reasons, sometimes with good intentions. They may lie to keep their parents happy, to stay out of trouble, to cover embarrassment or inadequacy, or because they can't make the clear distinction between fact and fiction. Regardless of the reasons, our students should understand that lying is wrong.

However, lying does not only involve saying something that is not true. It also includes leaving something out of a

story, half-truths, and stretching or twisting facts, like gossiping. It is also possible to lie with actions. Most people are guilty of these acts. Remind your students that lies don't stop with just one; one lie usually leads to another. By repeatedly telling lies, it causes us to lose sight of right and wrong and causes our hearts to become dirty and impure. Not only is lying wrong, it also hurts our friends and relatives so that they can no longer trust us. God warns everyone about deceiving others, and He will punish those who disobey Him. Encourage your students to tell the truth even when they are afraid to or even when they will be disciplined. In this way, they will avoid a lot of trouble and their hearts will remain pure and honest before God.

VOCABULARY

false witness: untrue witness or statements under oath

vineyard: a place where grapes are grown

curse: to wish evil upon someone

REVIEW

Last week's lesson was about the eighth commandment: "You shall not steal." When Achan stole from God, he was punished with death. God severely punishes those who steal, but He will first give them an opportunity to repent. When Zacchaeus was given the opportunity, he quickly repented. He returned the money he had stolen from the people as a tax collector.

Sometimes, people steal for fun or to gain something they do not have, such as money. None of these are excuses for breaking God's commandment. We must always pray to God and ask for His help. God will always provide for His people.

BIBLE STORY

Naboth's Vineyard

In the land of Israel, there once lived a king and queen named King Ahab and Queen Jezebel. King Ahab was one of the wickedest kings in Israel's history. He made many mistakes in his life. He married Jezebel, who was an idol-worshipper. In turn, both of them led the entire country to sin against God by building altars to their false gods and worshipping them. Ahab was also a cruel king. He didn't care if other people got hurt, as long as he got what he wanted.

King Ahab and Queen Jezebel lived in a grand palace located on fertile lands and had a lot of beautiful clothing and jewelry. However, King Ahab was still not satisfied. One day, King Ahab decided that he wanted a vegetable garden. He looked around for some land near his palace that would be good for growing vegetables. He found a good piece of land next to his palace. It was a vineyard

owned by a man called Naboth.

Ahab hurried off and went to see Naboth. Ahab wanted to buy the land from him. When Ahab asked Naboth to sell the land to him, the king didn't get the answer he wanted to hear.

"I cannot sell you the vineyard. This land has been in my family for many generations. It has to remain in my family. God does not allow us to sell our land, and if I do, I will be going against God's commandments," said Naboth.

The king asked again and again, offering money and even a better piece of land in exchange but Naboth refused. So, Ahab went home very sad and upset.

When he returned to the palace, he went straight to his bed and lay there, sulking. When his servants brought him dinner, he refused to eat or drink anything. Queen Jezebel knew something was bothering the king.

"What's wrong?" she asked. "Why won't you eat your dinner?"

"I want Naboth's vineyard," said the king. "But he won't sell it to me."

When the queen heard this, she reassured him.

"You are the king, aren't you? Why should you care about what Naboth thinks? Get up and eat," ordered Jezebel. "Don't worry. I will get you the vineyard."

Jezebel's Plan

The queen came up with a plan to kill Naboth so that Ahab could have the piece of land. She wrote letters in the king's name to the leaders in the city where Naboth lived. In the letters she asked them to call everyone in town together for a day of fasting. She told them to invite Naboth and seat him with high honor. Then two bad men were to be called to bear false witness against Naboth. This means that they were to lie about Naboth. They would say that Naboth had cursed both God and the king. It was a great sin to curse God and men. Afterward, as punishment, they were to take Naboth outside the city and stone him to death.

When the leaders of the town received the letter, they followed the queen's instructions. They had a special day of fasting and seated Naboth with high honor. The two dishonest men sat before him. Suddenly, the two men stood up and lied that Naboth had cursed both God and

the king. Did Naboth do this? No, they were all lies. Naboth did not do any wrong, but no one cared. The people of the town were so upset with Naboth that they carried him out of the town and killed him with big heavy stones. The leaders of the city then sent messengers to tell Jezebel that Naboth was dead.

When Jezebel heard the news, she was very pleased. She went to King Ahab and said, "You know the vineyard that Naboth wouldn't sell you? Well, you can have it now! Naboth is dead! As soon as Ahab heard this, he went down to Naboth's vineyard and made it his own.

When Ahab and Jezebel were committing this wicked deed, who do you think was watching? Exactly, God was watching. Ahab and Jezebel may have thought that they got away with murder, but God's eyes are everywhere and He saw their wicked deed. God sent Elijah the prophet to give King Ahab a very serious message. When Elijah found Ahab, he said, "I have found you because you have done great evil in the sight of God. God will punish you. You and all of your sons will die or be killed. Your wife Jezebel shall be torn apart and eaten by dogs. All this is because of your wicked deeds."

Not long after this, King Ahab was killed in battle. An archer struck him with an arrow while he was in his chariot and he died. Later, Queen Jezebel and their sons also died, just as the Lord had said.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

1. **Ahab was happy with all God had given him.** False; Ahab was unhappy and still wanted more.
2. **Jezebel wrote letters to the elders instructing two men to bear false witness against Naboth.** True.
3. **Naboth did not want to sell his vineyard because the vineyard produced many grapes.** False; his land was an inheritance from God.
4. **God punished King Ahab and Queen Jezebel for their sins by not allowing them to be king and queen of Israel anymore.** False; He punished them with death.
5. **How did Ahab feel when Naboth refused to sell his vineyard?** Ahab was so sad and upset that he went straight to bed and refused to eat.
6. **What lies did the two bad men say about Naboth?** They said that Naboth had cursed God and the king.
7. **How does God feel when we lie?** He feels hurt and angry.
8. **What is the ninth commandment?** "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor."

MEMORY VERSE PRACTICE

Please reinforce the memory verse every week.
You can practice the memory verse with your students anytime during class.

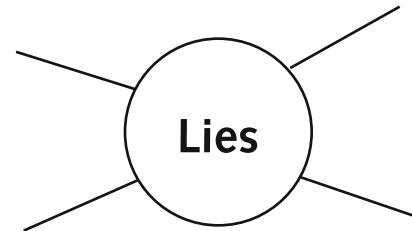
"You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor." (Exodus 20:16)

SPIRITUAL TEACHING & LIFE APPLICATION

In today's story, we learned that Ahab and Jezebel did something that was very wicked in God's eyes. They came up with a plan to have a person named Naboth killed. They had two bad men bear false witness against Naboth. What does it mean to bear false witness? [Have students respond.] To bear false witness is to speak lies about a person or event. Queen Jezebel instructed two bad men to say that Naboth had cursed God and the king. To curse someone is to wish for evil to come upon that person. In the Bible, God instructed the Israelites not to curse. God wants us to bless, rather than curse, others. When we bless someone, we hope that good things will come to that person.

As a result of the bad men's lies, Naboth was stoned to death. Why is lying wrong?

For Teachers: Draw a circle on the whiteboard and write "Lies" in the center. Draw lines that point outward from the circle, and show how Ahab and Jezebel's lies impacted other people as the following discussion takes place.



Lying hurts and angers God.

God was angry with Ahab and Jezebel because of their wicked deeds. He was hurt that they did not keep His commandments. The Bible says, "Lying lips are an abomination to the LORD, but those who deal truthfully are His delight" (Prov 12:22). An abomination to the Lord means something that irritates God. Ahab was king of Israel, leader of God's people. But rather than leading them into true worship, Ahab disobeyed God by breaking many commandments. Apart from being angered, God was more hurt than anything else. Today, we're God's chosen people and His children. When we lie, we are willfully breaking God's commandment. How can our heavenly Father not be angry and hurt? The Bible has mentioned many times that the unrighteous, those who disobey God, will not inherit the kingdom of God but shall have their part in the lake of fire (Rev 21:8). God worries for us. He

wants us all to be able to reach His presence one day and live with Him in the kingdom of heaven. But when we sin, He can only be angry and hurt.

Every day, God takes care of us and watches over us from above. When we pray, He listens. When we need help, He offers His all-powerful helping hands. When we feel sad, He comforts us like a friend would. When we are afraid, He gives us peace. God is a wonderful Father. We need His abidance. Therefore, let us not hurt and anger God. We know that He loves us and will always keep His promises, as long as we keep His commandments. At the end of the day, isn't the promise of heaven greater than anything else in this world? Lying only brings us away from the presence of God, so let us not lie.

Lying hurts others.

How did Ahab and Jezebel hurt others? [Let students think, and then share their answers.] Their lying caused the death of Naboth. It also caused the people of Israel to sin because they stoned a man who was innocent. But they didn't care how much harm they did to others! When Jezebel heard that Naboth was stoned to death, she was overjoyed. When Ahab knew that he could finally have Naboth's land, he was overjoyed, too! They were blinded by their joy and nothing else seemed to matter to them, even a person's death.

Sometimes, though our lies may be unintentional, we can unknowingly hurt others. How? Let me share a story with you.

Tiffany is having her piano exam in two weeks.

Therefore, her mom has told her to practice every day from now on until the exam. But Tiffany doesn't really care about this exam. She doesn't want to practice for it at all. So she thinks of an idea... "If I tell Mom that I will practice at school instead of at home, then I won't have to practice at all! She won't find out, even if I don't practice at school." In fact, Tiffany is planning to spend her "practice time" playing games on one of the school computers.

About a week later, Tiffany came home one day and her mom asked her, "How was your practice today? Are you ready for your piano exam?" Tiffany replied, "It's going pretty well. I will be ready by next week!" Tiffany lied again.

Two days later, Tiffany's mom asked her again, "How was your practice today? Are you ready for your piano exam?" And Tiffany told the same lie again. Then, Tiffany's mom became angry. She said to Tiffany, "Why did you lie to me? Your piano books have been here at home all day today. How could you have practiced at school? I didn't pay attention this whole time because I trusted you. Now, tell me, have you practiced at all since that day you told me that you would practice at school?" Tiffany didn't answer. So her mom said, "Can you play the songs and show me how ready you are for the exam?" Hesitantly, Tiffany walked to the piano and started playing. Not surprisingly, Tiffany wasn't ready for the exam at all. She played with many mistakes. When she finished, she turned to her mom and saw that there were tears in her eyes. Worried, Tiffany asked her mom, "Are you okay, Mom? I'm really sorry that I'm not ready for the exam yet. I know I might fail, and if I do, I'd have wasted the money you spent on my piano lessons. I will practice now!" Then her mom said, "I'm not upset because you might fail the exam. Yes, I really want you to be able to pass the exam, but all I ask is for you to try your best. As long as you do your best, I am very happy and proud of you. What hurts me the most is not that you did not practice, but that you have

not been honest with me. You told me that you would practice at school, and I trusted you. I believed in your lies, and your dishonesty has made me really upset."

That night, Tiffany's mom was very upset, and she stayed in her room for a couple hours. Tiffany didn't know what to do but regret having lied to her mom. She thought about what her mom said over and over again, and she realized how much her mom was hurt by her few words. In the end, Tiffany went into her mom's room and apologized to her. She promised her mom that she would spend two hours practicing piano every day until her exam and that she would do her very best.

Reflection Questions

- 1. Why did Tiffany have to repeat her lie to her mom?** Tiffany had lied about practicing piano; whenever her mom asked her about the same thing, she automatically had to tell the same lie again.
- 2. What made Tiffany's mom feel hurt?** Tiffany's lies hurt her mother. Her mother felt hurt because Tiffany hadn't been honest with her. Tiffany told her that she would practice piano at school, but she didn't. She was hurt that her daughter abused her trust.

Lying hurts us.

How did Ahab and Jezebel bring harm upon themselves? [Let students think, and then share their answers.] God punished them and their children with death. In fact, they should have known better, especially Ahab. He knew from his many encounters with God's prophets that God hates all kinds of evil. But when it came to his desired land, he didn't think much about God's commandments. Rather, he rejoiced with his wicked wife Jezebel after Naboth had been wrongfully stoned, because he finally got the land that he wanted. His conscience had been completely dulled by the influence of his evil wife.

Today, we know very well that lying is unacceptable in God's eyes. We also know that God punishes those who purposely disobey His commandments. Why take a chance to lie if we already know the consequences? Why bring harm upon ourselves? Some people might think that God is merciful and that He will forgive our sins as long as we repent afterwards. Yes, God is a merciful God. But if we purposely sin against God and think that we can just simply repent afterwards, we are abusing the mercy of God. In other words, God will not have mercy on us when we willingly sin with such intentions. Therefore, when we know what is wrong in God's eyes, we must learn to obey and follow His commandments wholeheartedly.

As a punishment for lying, God said that he would bring calamity upon Ahab's household. Jezebel, being the one

who initiated the lying, even had her dead body eaten by dogs. Today, God punishes those who lie in His ways. Not every liar is put to death like Ahab and Jezebel had been. However, lying is a serious sin that can lead us to a "second death." What does that mean? Revelations 21:8 says, "All liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death." The lake which burns with fire and brimstone is reserved for those who have sinned against God. As we mentioned earlier, God loves us very much and He wants us all to live in heaven with Him one day. In order to enter the kingdom of God, we need to strive to be sinless because heaven is only for people who heed the truth of God.

God is truth.

Take a minute and think about your best friends. Why are they your best friends? Do you all share similar interests, like your hobbies? [Give your students some time to think by themselves.] Often, we enjoy doing the same things as our friends do. The Bible refers to Satan as a "liar and the father of it" (Jn 8:44). People who like to lie are friends with Satan because they behave like him and enjoy lying, just like he does. On the contrary, God is truth. He never lies and He enjoys friendship with people who do likewise. Let's turn to a few verses and see what the Bible says!

For Teachers: Have your students turn to the following verses and fill in the blanks either by asking them or writing the questions on the board.

1. "*(Lying lips)* _____ **are an abomination to the LORD. But those who deal *(truthfully)* _____ are His delight" (Prov 12:22).**

Since God is truth, He dislikes all lips that tell lies. On the contrary, telling the truth always pleases Him.

2. **Jesus said that He was "the *(way)* _____, the *(truth)* _____, and the *(life)* _____" (Jn 14:6).**

Understanding Jesus helps us to be honest!

3. **"He who works *(deceit)* _____ shall not dwell within my house; he who *(tells lies)* _____ shall not continue in my presence" (Ps 101:7).**

God's house is the church. God doesn't want anyone who lies to be in His church; His presence will leave them!

Students, the only way we can befriend our Lord Jesus Christ is to obey His word, that is, the truth, which includes not lying. When we lie, it is as if we are shaking hands with Satan in front of God. Imagine if you were playing a game and one of your teammates went to help the opposing team. How would you feel? Would you think that he was disloyal? Would you want him back on your team? [Pause for students to think and answer.] This is how God feels when we lie or commit any sins. Students, let us not hesitate any longer about which team we want to join and stay on... I want to be on God's team—an honest team! What about you?

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. False; Ahab was unhappy and still not satisfied.
2. True
3. True
4. A
5. C
6. B
7. A
8. We hurt God, others, and ourselves when we lie.
9. When we tell the truth, we are like God who is truthful and honest. When we lie, we behave like Satan who is the father of all lies.
10. "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor." (Exodus 20:16)

ACTIVITY

1

The Ninth Commandment

Objective: To reinforce the ninth commandment through singing.

Instructions

1. Bring a small stone to class.
2. Review the song "The Ninth Commandment" with students.
3. Seat the students in a circle.
4. Select one student to be "Naboth" and have him sit in the center of the circle.
5. While singing "The Ninth Commandment," the students will pass the small stone behind their backs around the circle. Instead of actually passing the stone, students may choose to pretend to pass the stone.
6. When the song stops, the students will show their closed hands. "Naboth" will then guess who "Ahab" (the student with the stone) is. If "Naboth" guesses correctly, "Ahab" will sit out until the next game.

Alternate Method

Take a few paper cups with lids. Ask "Naboth" to close his or her eyes. Place a stone in one of the cups. Have the students sit in a circle. As they sing the song, they will slide the paper cups to the rhythm of the song from one student to the next. When the song stops, have "Naboth" guess who "Ahab" is.

2

Remember the Commandments / *Optional*

Objective: To use classroom decorations to remind the students of the commandments they have learned.

Instructions

Since this quarter's lessons focus on the Ten Commandments, it would be nice to decorate the classroom with each commandment. These decorations will also serve to remind the students how to obey God.

Have the students write out the commandment that they learned in this lesson on a piece of construction paper and decorate it to make it meaningful. After the students are done, the teacher can put the commandment on a classroom wall for all the students to see.

This lesson's commandment is: **"9. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor."**

The Ninth Commandment

Soprano

The musical notation is written on a single staff in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. It consists of three lines of music. The first line starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The notes are: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4-A4 (beamed eighth notes), G4 (quarter), F4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (half). The lyrics are: "You shall not bear false wit - ness 'gainst your neigh - bor".

3

The second line starts with a measure rest for 3 measures, then continues with: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4-A4 (beamed eighth notes), G4 (quarter), F4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (half). The lyrics are: "You shall not bear false wit-ness 'gainst your neigh bor You shall not bear false wit-ness".

6

The third line starts with a measure rest for 6 measures, then continues with: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4-A4 (beamed eighth notes), G4 (quarter), F4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (half). The lyrics are: "'gainst your neigh - bor This is com-mand - ment nine."

E1 Year 1 Book 3 Lesson 9—Do Not Give False Testimony

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Bible Truth: It is a sin to lie.

Lesson Objectives: 1. To understand that it is a sin to lie and to hurt others with lies.
2. To know that God will punish those who lie.

Bible Reading: Please put a check mark in the space when you complete the reading each day.

Prayer: Please put a check mark in the space on the days you prayed to God.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Bible Reading							
Prayer							

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse.

(Exodus 20:16)

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Homework Assignment

Understanding What You Have Learned

True or False

1. Ahab was happy with all that God had given him. _____
2. Jezebel wrote letters asking two men to bear false witness against Naboth. _____
3. God saw the evil deed that Ahab and Jezebel had committed. _____

Multiple Choice

4. _____ : Why did Naboth refuse to sell his vineyard?
 - a. It was against God's commandment to sell it.
 - b. It produced a lot of grapes.
 - c. He wanted to give it to his children.
5. _____ : How did Ahab feel when Naboth refused to sell his vineyard?
 - a. He did not mind because he already had a lot of land.
 - b. He went and set fire to Naboth's vineyard.
 - c. He was so upset that he went straight to bed and refused to eat.
6. _____ : What did the two bad men say against Naboth?
 - a. Naboth refused to sell the vineyard because he did not like King Ahab.
 - b. Naboth had cursed God and the king.
 - c. Naboth had stolen the vineyard.
7. _____ : How did God punish Ahab and Jezebel for their sins?
 - a. He said that Ahab, Jezebel, and their sons would all die.
 - b. He took the vineyard away from them.
 - c. He said that they could no longer be king and queen of Israel.

Short Answer

8. Who do we hurt when we lie?

9. Who are we like when we tell the truth? Who are we like when we lie?

10. What is the ninth commandment?
