

**Discussion Questions: Living in Freedom**  
**9<sup>th</sup> Commandment: Do Not Bear False Witness - Exodus 20:16**

Drawn from the March 9, 2025 sermon by Dr. Jeff Chandler

Opener: Have you ever been lied to? What were the feelings that came from that, and how did it affect your relationship with that person?

**Exodus 20:16** says *“You must not testify falsely against your neighbor.”*

The ninth command speaks to living a life of integrity. While it is dealing primarily with false testimony or slander, it is usually applied broadly to all kinds of lies that bring injury to others.

**Why we lie. Here are some typical kinds of lies that people engage in.**

- **The cruel lie** – a lie you tell because person hurt you and you want to get even
- **The cowardly lie** – a lie to escape consequences
- **The conceited lie** – a lie to impress
- **The calculated lie** – a lie to manipulate
- **The convenient lie** – a lie that’s told because it takes too much effort to tell the truth

1. Which of these have you found yourself telling at some point?

2. What have been some consequences of lying that have brought hurt to you or someone you know?

**Read Proverbs 21:6**

*“Wealth created by a lying tongue is a vanishing mist and a deadly trap.”*

Whatever you give out in life is what you’re going to get back. If we are honest and maintain integrity in our decisions, God says we will be blessed.

3. Has God ever rewarded your honesty? Explain

**Read Luke 9:25**

*“What do you benefit if you gain the whole world but are yourself lost or destroyed?”*

4. What do you think motivates dishonesty? What does it say about a person’s character?

**How to live a life with Integrity**

Here are some thoughts on the matter:

- Tell the truth – consistently, lovingly and tactfully.
- Make an honest living
- Give to God
- Make it right – if you have stolen something or lied, deal with it.

5. Why are each of these important? Would you add anything to this list?

6. What is one thing you would like support from your small group in applying to your life right now.

**Group Prayer Time:** This session has challenged our ideas about integrity. It’s unlikely that anyone in the group got away without at least one area where more thought and prayer needs to be applied. Pray for one another that you will continue to go deeper with God and experience His blessings in your lives. Pray also for any needs people are facing in this time.

**For personal reflection in the group or on your own**

**Nathan the prophet confronted king David about committing adultery with Bathsheba. This is David's prayer as he was grieving and repenting from what he had done.**

**Psalm 51:6-13 (New Living Translation)**

- <sup>6</sup>You desire honesty from the womb, teaching me wisdom even there.  
<sup>7</sup>Purify me from my sins, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.  
<sup>8</sup>Oh, give me back my joy again; you have broken me—now let me rejoice.  
<sup>9</sup>Don't keep looking at my sins. Remove the stain of my guilt.  
<sup>10</sup>Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a loyal spirit within me.  
<sup>11</sup>Do not banish me from your presence, and don't take your Holy Spirit from me.  
<sup>12</sup>Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and make me willing to obey you.  
<sup>13</sup>Then I will teach your ways to rebels, and they will return to you.

How does this prayer reflect your own heart right now?

Is there anyone you have wronged that you need to be honest with? If so, what could be your next step?

**Next week, March 16, pastor Jeff will cover "You shall not covet" and there will be discussion questions available at [www.sequimcommunitychurch.org/downloads](http://www.sequimcommunitychurch.org/downloads)**