

The Truth About Lies

Three reasons why we lie:

- ① We lie to make ourselves **look better**.
Acts 5:1-11
- ② We lie for **personal gain**.
2 Kings 5:1-27
- ③ We lie to avoid **negative consequences**.
Exodus 32:19-24, Deuteronomy 9:11-21, Matthew 26:69-75

Three reasons why we shouldn't lie:

- ① God **hates it**.
Proverbs 6:16-19, 11:1, 12:17-22,
- ② It's an **indicator** of who we are **following**.
John 8:31-47, 15:9-15, Ephesians 4:25, Colossians 3:9-11
- ③ We become **slaves to it**, and it robs us of our **freedom**.
Proverbs 19:5, James 3:3-12, John 8:32

Taking it to work:

Proverbs 19:22-23, 21:6, Mark 8:34-37

- ▶ We can't put a price on our **integrity** or **obedience**.
- ▶ We can't afford the **consequences** of lying.

Suggested Resources: "Work Matters" by Tom Nelson/ "Your Work Matters To God" by Sherman & Hendricks
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Growth Group Homework

For the week of September 16, 2012

Welcome to the Fall quarter of Growth Groups!

This week we kick off our Fall Growth Group quarter. Your first meeting will include a potluck dinner, time to get acquainted, as well as time to discuss your Growth Group Covenant. The homework has been shortened this week to allow ample time to accomplish this.

To prepare for this week's meeting, take some time to focus on the questions below and be prepared to share your answers with the group. Have a great first meeting as you come together to connect and encourage one another to grow and to see God change your lives from the inside out!

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. What's something you did this past summer that was fun or enjoyable – i.e. going to a movie, swimming, family gathering, vacation, barbeque, etc?

2. Describe your first job - what you liked about it, what you didn't, and anything else about it that comes to mind.

3. Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. We've heard these last three weeks that instead of being a necessary evil, work is something God designed for us to do. As you read the following Proverbs, jot down what each one says

about work and, if possible, make a note of how that principle could be applied in your work, school or home environment.

Proverbs 10:4

Lazy hands make a man poor,
but diligent hands bring wealth. [NIV]

Proverbs 14:23

All hard work brings a profit,
but mere talk leads only to poverty. [NIV]

Proverbs 16:26

The laborer's appetite works for him;
his hunger drives him on. [NIV]

Proverbs 22:29

Do you see a man skilled in his work?
He will serve before kings;
he will not serve before obscure men. [NIV]

Proverbs 24:27

Finish your outdoor work
and get your fields ready;
after that, build your house. [NIV]

Proverbs 28:19

He who works his land will have abundant food,
but the one who chases fantasies will have his fill of poverty. [NIV]

Which of these verses caught your attention the most, and why?

2. King Saul is someone who violated the old saying, "Honesty is the best policy." In 1 Samuel 15, we read about God giving Saul a mission that he failed to carry out completely. Because of this, God sent the prophet Samuel to confront him. How do we see Saul not being honest in his conversation with the prophet Samuel in 1 Samuel 15:7-26?

1 Samuel 15:7-26

Then Saul attacked the Amalekites all the way from Havilah to Shur, to the east of Egypt. [8] He took Agag king of the Amalekites alive, and all his people he totally destroyed with the sword. [9] But Saul and the army spared Agag and the best of the sheep and cattle, the fat calves and lambs-- everything that was good. These they were unwilling to destroy completely, but everything that was despised and weak they totally destroyed.

[10] Then the word of the Lord came to Samuel: [11] "I am grieved that I have made Saul king,

because he has turned away from me and has not carried out my instructions." Samuel was troubled, and he cried out to the Lord all that night.

[12] Early in the morning Samuel got up and went to meet Saul, but he was told, "Saul has gone to Carmel. There he has set up a monument in his own honor and has turned and gone on down to Gilgal."

[13] When Samuel reached him, Saul said, "The Lord bless you! I have carried out the Lord's instructions."

[14] But Samuel said, "What then is this bleating of sheep in my ears? What is this lowing of cattle that I hear?"

[15] Saul answered, "The soldiers brought them from the Amalekites; they spared the best of the sheep and cattle to sacrifice to the Lord your God, but we totally destroyed the rest."

[16] "Stop!" Samuel said to Saul. "Let me tell you what the Lord said to me last night."

"Tell me," Saul replied.

[17] Samuel said, "Although you were once small in your own eyes, did you not become the head of the tribes of Israel? The Lord anointed you king over Israel. [18] And he sent you on a mission, saying, 'Go and completely destroy those wicked people, the Amalekites; make war on them until you have wiped them out.' [19] Why did you not obey the Lord? Why did you pounce on the plunder and do evil in the eyes of the Lord?"

[20] "But I did obey the Lord," Saul said. "I went on the mission the Lord assigned me. I completely destroyed the Amalekites and brought back Agag their king. [21] The soldiers took sheep and cattle from the plunder, the best of what was devoted to God, in order to sacrifice them to the Lord your God at Gilgal."

[22] But Samuel replied:

*"Does the Lord delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices
as much as in obeying the voice of the Lord?*

*To obey is better than sacrifice,
and to heed is better than the fat of rams.*

*[23] For rebellion is like the sin of divination,
and arrogance like the evil of idolatry.*

*Because you have rejected the word of the Lord,
he has rejected you as king."*

[24] Then Saul said to Samuel, "I have sinned. I violated the Lord's command and your instructions. I was afraid of the people and so I gave in to them. [25] Now I beg you, forgive my sin and come back with me, so that I may worship the Lord."

[26] But Samuel said to him, "I will not go back with you. You have rejected the word of the Lord, and the Lord has rejected you as king over Israel!" [NIV]

Can you think of any ways Christians might be tempted to tell half truths or exaggerate when it comes to their employment, finances, or other areas of life?

TAKING IT HOME

In preparation for going over the Covenant in your Growth Group, take a moment to jot down some of the reasons you joined a Growth Group this quarter. What are you looking forward to the most?

THE PURPOSE OF GROWTH GROUPS

Growth Groups exist to promote spiritual maturity and personal growth through meaningful Christian relationships and the study of God's Word. (Romans 8:29 & Hebrews 10:24-25). Here's how it will happen:

SHARE

Each week we'll take time to share what is happening in our lives. At first this sharing will include planned "sharing questions." But after the first few weeks, it will become more informal and personal as we feel more comfortable.

STUDY

Each week we'll study a section from God's Word that relates to the previous weekend's sermon or an appropriate personal growth topic. Our goal is to learn how to live out our Christianity in everyday life.

SUPPORT

Each week we'll learn how to take care of one another as Christ commanded (John 15:9-13). This care can take many forms, such as prayer, encouragement, listening, challenging one another and meeting real needs.

SERVE

Spiritual growth is fostered not only by what we gain through the support and input of others, but also through service to others. The role each of us fills is important to the health of the church and for us to be the hands and feet of Jesus to the community in which we live (Ephesians 4:11-16). Throughout the quarter, it is our hope that you can find and/or be affirmed in the ways God has designed you to serve and make a difference in God's Kingdom.