

Growth Group Homework

For the week of February 3, 2013

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

MY STORY:

1. This weekend we heard that God draws "straight lines with crooked sticks." Can you think of a time when God used you or someone you know despite any weaknesses, fears or limitations you or they may have had?

2. Abraham had a problem of lying when under pressure. We saw a similar pattern of lying in his family through the 4th generation. What was your family's view on lying when growing up?

- Lies were ok if it prevented someone from pain
- Lies weren't tolerated
- White lies were ignored
- No one ever told the truth
- Lies shouldn't be challenged
- Other:

DIGGING DEEPER

1. We all face the temptation to bend things, justify or explain why a "little white lie" is not such a big deal. When compared to some of the other sins we commit, lying can seem small. What strong language is used in the following verses and how does that add to your understanding of God's view of lying?

Proverbs 6:16-19

Proverbs 11:1

Psalms 5:6

In what areas of your life have you been most tempted to tell a half-truth or had to be on your guard the most to maintain integrity?

2. This week we heard about the consequences of lying and the importance of being truthful. However, it's not just speaking the truth; it's how we do it that's important. What guidance do the following verses give in speaking the truth with tact?

Colossians 4:5-6

Ephesians 4:29

1 Peter 3:15

Which verse is most important for you to remember when speaking truth to others?

3. Our culture today is fascinated with the mistakes of other people. From reality TV to the internet and social media, we are literally immersed in the personal lives of others. With so much focus on other people's "stuff," there is less emphasis on our own issues. What consequences in the following verses could help us remember that we all have "feet of clay" and need to be slow to judge others?

Matthew 7:1-5

Matthew 12:36-37

James 4:11-12

What are some of the reasons why we are so quick to judge other people?

Who in your life tends to see the "straight line" instead of the "crooked stick"?

TAKING IT HOME

Is there anything in your life you'd like to change to stay clear of a "half-truth" or any area your group could be praying for you in terms of lying, truthfulness or integrity?

Prayer Requests:

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Proverbs 6:16-19

There are six things the Lord hates,
seven that are detestable to him:
[17] haughty eyes, a lying tongue,
hands that shed innocent blood,
[18] a heart that devises wicked schemes,
feet that are quick to rush into evil,
[19] a false witness who pours out lies
and a man who stirs up dissension among brothers. [NIV]

Proverbs 11:1

The Lord abhors dishonest scales,
but accurate weights are his delight. [NIV]

Psalm 5:6

You destroy those who tell lies;
bloodthirsty and deceitful men
the Lord abhors. [NIV]

In what areas of your life have you been most tempted to tell a half-truth or had to be on your guard the most to maintain integrity?

2. This week we heard about the consequences of lying and the importance of being truthful. However, it's not just speaking the truth; it's how we do it that's important. What guidance do the following verses give in speaking the truth with tact?

Colossians 4:5-6

Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. [6] Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone. [NIV]

Ephesians 4:29

Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. [NIV]

1 Peter 3:15

But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, [NIV]

Which verse is most important for you to remember when speaking truth to others?

3. Our culture today is fascinated with the mistakes of other people. From reality TV to the internet and social media, we are literally immersed in the personal lives of others. With so much focus on other people's "stuff," there is less emphasis on our own issues. What consequences in the following verses could help us remember that we all have "feet of clay" and need to be slow to judge others?

Matthew 7:1-5

"Do not judge, or you too will be judged. [2] For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

[3] "Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? [4] How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? [5] You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye. [NIV]

Matthew 12:36-37

But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. [37] For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned." [NIV]

James 4:11-12

Brothers, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against his brother or judges him speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it. [12] There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you--who are you to judge your neighbor? [NIV]

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