

### 3.09 ALWAYS SPEAK TRUTH

Topic: Love Your Neighbor as Yourself  
Subtopic: Always Speak Truth 3G.  
Integrity, Honesty, and Justice 4H. Making  
Good Choices

Class: Class III (3<sup>rd</sup> Grade)

Objectives:

**Knowledge:** Students will recognize that speaking truth protects the name and reputation of themselves and neighbors.

**Attitude:** Students will observe how lying leads into conflict and disharmony.

Materials Needed:

Memory Verse Exercise Book  
Exercise Book

Scripture:

**References:** Ephesians 4:13-16, 25  
Proverbs 12:22  
Teacher's Notes

Memory Verse: "Do not accuse anyone falsely." Exodus 20:16

#### TEACHER ACTIVITIES

**Introduction:**

1. Can you tell about a time when you were lied to or lied about? How did you feel about that?

**Bible Story:**

2. The more we know about the ways of God, the more we grow in His likeness. We not only identify lying as wrong but we learn to speak truth with love. Review the teachings from Ephesians 4:13-16, 25; Proverbs 12:22

**Suggested Discussion Questions**

3. How does God feel about those who do not speak truth?
4. Why is speaking truth about others so very important?
5. What are some ways people use to give false information about others?
6. Does speaking truth ever hurt another? How?
7. How does God's Word tell us to speak truth?

**Application:**

8. What happens when we falsely accuse someone of saying or doing something?

**Evaluation:**

9. What can you do to prevent yourself from accusing others wrongly?

#### STUDENT ACTIVITIES

**Introduction:**

1. Students will express their feelings about being lied about or were lied to. E.g. Hurt, lost their trust in the other

**Bible Story:**

2. Students learn that God does not like liars; that speaking truth means we are growing stronger in our faith; truth must be spoken with love; good reputation of Christ's followers is promoted.

**Possible Answers to Questions:**

3. "The Lord hates liars but He is pleased with those who keep His Word." Proverbs 12:22
4. Just as we protect God's reputation by keeping His name holy, so we protect the reputation of others by speaking truth of them.
5. Use deceit, gossip, spread false information to giving unfavorable impression about another.
6. Yes, it can. It brings to light something that has been attempted to be kept hidden.
7. Speak truth in love.

**Application:**

8. Creates distrust and conflict

**Evaluation:**

9. Always speak truth

### **Extension Activities**

1. Have students write new memory verse in the Memory Verse Exercise Book: “Do not accuse anyone falsely.” Exodus 20:16
2. In their other Exercise Book, have students write at the top: PROTECT THE REPUTATION AND NAME OF YOUR NEIGHBORS. Underneath write By speaking truth and not making false accusations.
3. Discussion Time: Cite a situation where someone has been wrongly accused. E.g. Suppose Tom came to school with money in his pocket to pay for his lunch. He took it out of his pocket and laid it on his desk to give to the teacher. Sophia asked him a question about a math problem. When he came back to his desk, the money was gone. He accused Sam who sits behind him of taking his money. When Sam denies it, he goes to the teacher and tells her that Sam took his money and won’t give it back. Sam declares he never saw the money. If he had it he would give it back. At recess that day everybody snubs Sam. Sam feels very lonely. Joseph is unusually loud about accusing Sam of taking Tom’s money. At lunch time, Joseph buys extra food for his lunch and is boastful about being able to share his food with others. The teacher becomes suspicious that Joseph is actually the one who took the money.

Discussion questions might include: Did Tom have evidence that Sam had taken the money? Was it right to accuse him? How did others treat Sam when they assumed he was guilty of taking the money? Do you think the teacher’s suspicions are right? What would be the right way for the teacher to handle this situation?

## **NOTES FOR TEACHERS**

### **Highlights for the Bible Story**

The Bible lesson this time is not really in the form of a story but provides important teaching about always speaking truth. The Ninth Commandment says “Do not accuse anyone falsely.” Exodus 20:16

1. We often are tempted to tell a partial truth or accuse someone else when we have been involved in something questionable. We don’t want to be found out so it is our way of trying to make ourselves look better than the other person.
2. Some ways we do that are to
  - a. spread false information about another person that will put them in an unfavorable impression (libel)
  - b. tell only part of the truth so it will lead people astray (deceit)
  - c. share damaging information about someone that may or may not be true (gossip)
3. In Proverbs 12:22 we learn that “God hates liars, but He is pleased with those who keep His word.” So if we want to please God, we will not lie or accuse someone falsely.
4. When we obey the commandments of God, we begin to understand not only how we make God happy but we understand that obeying these commandments help us live peacefully with one another. Always speaking truth gives us a good reputation. People can trust us to do what we say.
5. Speaking truth sometimes is difficult because it exposes something wrong to the light.
6. Therefore, when we speak truth we need to speak it with love and not add damage to damage already happening. That means we speak the facts without intentionally hurting another person.

7. When we speak truth as followers of Jesus, it makes those who don't follow Jesus recognize that we are different—we can be trusted.
8. Remember when we talked about the third commandment that we are told how important it is to protect God's name and reputation. Now God says in this ninth commandment that it is also important to protect the reputation of our neighbors. We do that by always speaking truth. If we don't know the truth, it is better not to speak until we can speak honestly.
9. When people are accused falsely, conflict is created and it takes time to rebuild trust and bring harmony back into the community.

### **Peacemaking Connection**

Conflicts mount when false accusations are given about someone. A peacemaker will always speak truth, will not gossip, spread false information that makes another person look bad, or tell only the part of the truth. Protecting the reputation of other people is important. It means that we speak truth about them with love.

### **Key Points**

Just as the Ten Commandments say we are to protect God's reputation and name (3<sup>rd</sup> commandment), so we are to protect the reputation and name of our neighbors by only speaking truth (9<sup>th</sup> commandment) and not making false accusations. Determining to speak truth indicates that we are maturing in our faith. Truth must be spoken in love—not intentionally hurting another. When followers of Christ speak truth, it builds a strong reputation that they can be trusted.

### **Teacher Evaluation**

Can my students depend on me speaking truth? When there are conflicts within the students, do I discover the truth with love? Do I encourage the students to tell the truth even when they fear they will be punished? Am I fair in delivering discipline when truth is revealed?