

THE TEN(DER) COMMANDMENTS

Part 9: “Tall Tales”

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Everyone lies. But just because everyone's doing it doesn't make it right. Abraham lies about his relationship to Sarah because of fear. He also tries to justify his lie by pointing out how it is partially true. We do many of the same things. Yet, because Christ is the truth (cf. John 14:6), we are called to be truthful.

“You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.” – Exodus 20:16

Now Abraham moved on from there into the region of the Negev and lived between Kadesh and Shur. For a while he stayed in Gerar, and there Abraham said of his wife Sarah, “She is my sister.” Then Abimelech king of Gerar sent for Sarah and took her. – Genesis 20:1-2

(continues on back)

Notes:

My Next Step(s):

- I will examine my intentions or reasons for lying.
- I will not tell cruel, convenient or cowardly lies.
- I will tell the truth consistently... (Being 80% honest is not what God has in mind.)
- When the truth hurts, I will speak the truth - in love.
- I will tell the truth, hopeful that a solution can be worked out which is better than hiding behind lies.

Memory Verse: “Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ.” – Ephesians 4:15

(This message uses materials provided by The Preaching Project, San Antonio, TX.)

The { **TEN(DER)**
COMMANDMENTS
"Tall Tales"

You shall not give false testimony against
your neighbor.

Exodus 20:16



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h8wVitdTRcQ>

Why We Lie

Why We Lie

We want to avoid trouble.

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We want to gain something.

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We want to gain something.

We want to protect someone else.

¹ Now Abraham moved on from there into the region of the Negev and lived between Kadesh and Shur. For a while he stayed in Gerar, ² and there Abraham **said of his wife Sarah, “She is my sister.”** Then Abimelech king of Gerar sent for Sarah and took her.

Genesis 20:1-2

¹⁰ Now there was a famine in the land, and Abram went down to Egypt to live there for a while because the famine was severe. ¹¹ As he was about to enter Egypt, he said to his wife Sarai, “I know what a beautiful woman you are. ¹² When the Egyptians see you, they will say, ‘This is his wife.’ Then they will kill me but will let you live. ¹³ Say you are my sister, so that I will be treated well for your sake and my life will be spared because of you.”

Genesis 12:10-13

How do you face the truth?

How do you face the truth?

With a trusted friend.

How do you face the truth?

With a trusted friend.

With humility.

How do you face the truth?

With a trusted friend.

With humility.

With hope.

⁶ But God came to Abimelech in a dream one night and said to him, “You are as good as dead because of the woman you have taken; she is a married woman. ⁷ Now return the man’s wife, for he is a prophet, and he will pray for you and you will live. But if you do not return her, you may be sure that you and all yours will die.”

Genesis 20:9-10

⁹ Then Abimelech called Abraham in and said, **“What have you done to us?”** How have I wronged you that you have brought such great guilt upon me and my kingdom? You have done things to me that should not be done.” ¹⁰ And Abimelech asked Abraham, **“What was your reason for doing this?”**

Genesis 20:9-10

¹¹ Abraham replied, “I said to myself, ‘There is surely no fear of God in this place, and they will kill me because of my wife.’ ¹² Besides, she really is my sister, the daughter of my father though not of my mother; and she became my wife.”

Genesis 20:3, 7-12

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Genesis 20:3, 7-12

Sorting Out “Gray” Areas

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What’s my intention?

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What’s my intention?

Am I breaking a confidence?

The Eighth Commandment

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, **betray** him, **slander** him, or **hurt** his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way.

- *Small Catechism*

“That’s not mine to share ...” 😊

Sorting Out “Gray” Areas

What’s my intention?

Am I breaking a confidence?

How will what I say be used?

“Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

John 8:32

“So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”

John 8:36

⁷ ... he is a prophet, and he will pray for you and you will live. But if you do not return her, you may be sure that you and all yours will die.”

Genesis 20:7

