

Introduction: God's boundary for truth, justice, and trust

Then...

- Israel's court system

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

Exodus 20:16

- Israel's code of conduct

Do not steal. Do not lie. Do not deceive one another.

Leviticus 19:11

...and now

- Integrity in everything

Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are all members of one body.

Ephesians 4:25

1. Examining the problem: Why do we lie?

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

2. Pondering the consequences: What lying does to relationships

- It destroys our relationship with _____.

The Lord is near to all who call on Him, to all who call on Him in truth.

Psalm 145:18

See also: Psalm 51:5, John 4:24, John 14:16

- It destroys our relationship with _____.

The man of integrity walks securely, but he who takes crooked paths will be found out.

Proverbs 10:9

See also: Acts 5, Joshua 7

- It destroys our relationship with _____.

Like a muddied spring or a polluted well is a righteous man who gives way to the wicked.

Proverbs 25:26

See also: Proverbs 18:8

3. Winning the war: How to stop lying!

- _____ the source of the lie – when I lie, I am most like Satan.
- _____ – Admit to God and others
- _____ on how God feels about lying – He hates it.
- _____ specifically against lying
- _____ it down
- _____ ruthless accountability

Conclusion: Four airtight truths you can't afford to be deceived on

1. God _____ you and is pursuing an intimate _____ with you.
2. You are a sinner and therefore are _____ from being able to come to God on your own.
3. _____ is God's one and _____ remedy for sin.
4. How you _____ to the above will determine your eternity _____.

Discussion Questions:

1. What was the original intent of the 9th Command? Why was obedience to this command essential for social justice?
2. Why is "telling" and "living" the truth so important? What impact do duplicity and deception have in our lives and relationships?
3. In what ways and for what reasons do you find yourself speaking and/or living in less than full integrity?
4. What practical suggestions do you think will most help you in "declaring war on deceit" in your life? Why? When and how will you start to put this into practice?