

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



PRINCE
OF PEACE
Called to Connect



Speak Truth

August 19 & 20, 2023

Have you ever experienced someone saying something about you that wasn't portraying you in the best light, or wasn't even true? Maybe you are aware of times you have done the same thing to someone else. God has something to teach us as we reflect on the commandment that leads us to understand the truth of our stories.

SCRIPTURE TEXT: EXODUS 20:16

Read the scripture text together as a group.

BACKGROUND INFO

We are in a series called Top 10 where we are seeking to understand how the 10 Commandments help us see and live into God's vision for all of creation.

Today we are talking about not testifying falsely against anyone, which is different from not lying. It's about seeing another truthfully and also in the best light possible.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Share about a time when somebody jumped to an inaccurate conclusion about you without knowing or understanding the whole story.
- Share about a time when you jumped to an inaccurate conclusion about somebody without knowing or understanding the whole story.
- ***This commandment does not simply tell us to refrain from lying; it really means to say only what you know to be true.*** As a group, spend some time affirming one another by sharing what you know to be true about each group member.
- ***Truth telling is waiting to find the facts, then telling the story if it is helpful, but not sharing if it will be hurtful or if it is simply not our story to tell.*** How do you know when a story is not yours to tell? How do you encourage people to share the truth of their own stories?
- ***Our inner critic can cause us to bear a false witness against ourselves and grow our insecurities.*** What is something you tend to feel insecure about? What false stories do you tell yourself about that? Who or what helps you see the truth?
- Share about a time when you learned something about someone by listening to their story. Share about a time when you learned something about yourself by listening to somebody else's story.

CHALLENGE: Accept the invitation of the commandments to participate in loving relationship with God and with all creation. Seek to become more aware of the ways you misrepresent the truth of others and yourself, so you can become a loving and compassionate truth teller.