



# Outward Group Discussion Guide

March 15, 2026 (Silverton)

## SUMMARY

This sermon explores the ninth commandment—"You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor"—and reveals how pervasive lying is in human nature. The pastor examines how we lie to save face, avoid conflict, impress others, and manipulate situations to our advantage. The central theological point is that Jesus willingly endured false accusations, twisted words, and unjust condemnation to save liars like us. He stood silent before his accusers, choosing not to defend himself, so that we might be forgiven and freed from the punishment our lies deserve. The sermon calls believers to stop believing lies about God and themselves, to speak truth in love following Matthew 18, and to serve the God of truth rather than the father of lies. It emphasizes that telling the truth may cost us everything, but Jesus already paid that price so we could be free to live in truth.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In what ways do we twist the truth or remain silent in situations where speaking up would be costly to us personally, and how does this reflect a lack of trust in God's sovereignty?
2. How does understanding that Jesus willingly endured false accusations and lies on our behalf change the way we approach telling the truth in difficult situations?
3. What lies do you believe about God that lead you to manipulate situations rather than trust Him to handle them, and how can knowing God through Scripture combat these false beliefs?
4. Why do you think gossip and slander spread so quickly and feel so appealing, and what does this reveal about human nature and our need for redemption?
5. How can we cultivate a church community where people feel safe to speak truth in love and receive correction without becoming defensive or assigning faulty motives?
6. What are the lies you believe about yourself that cause you to embellish, exaggerate, or hide the

truth, and how does the gospel address these insecurities?

7. In what practical ways can we implement Matthew 18 in our relationships to address conflict at the lowest level before it spreads and destroys community?
8. How does the concept of serving the father of lies versus serving the God of truth challenge you to examine the small, seemingly insignificant lies you tell daily?
9. What does it mean to redeem truth that is spoken harshly or imperfectly to you, and how can turning critics into coaches transform your spiritual growth?
10. How can we celebrate and encourage those who have the courage to speak truth in love, even when it makes us uncomfortable or reveals our own shortcomings?