



# Outward Group Discussion Guide

March 15, 2026 (Salem)

## SUMMARY

This sermon explores the ninth commandment—"You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor"—demonstrating how it extends beyond courtroom testimony to encompass all forms of lying, gossip, slander, and half-truths in our daily lives. The pastor confronts the reality that we live in a culture saturated with lies, where research shows most people lie multiple times in everyday conversations. However, the sermon pivots to the hope found in Jesus Christ, who is truth incarnate. Jesus perfectly kept the law, including this commandment, even when telling the truth led Him to the cross. He endured false accusations and witnesses, yet remained truthful, ultimately dying for liars so they could be reconciled to God. Because Jesus told the truth even when it cost Him everything, believers can now live as people of truth in their marriages, workplaces, friendships, and church communities. The sermon provides practical guidance on speaking truth in love, confronting sin biblically according to Matthew 18, and receiving correction with humility rather than defensiveness.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How does Jesus telling the truth even when it led to his crucifixion challenge the way you navigate difficult conversations where honesty might cost you something?
2. In what areas of your life are you most tempted to tell half-truths or remain silent when the truth should be spoken, and what is driving that temptation?
3. The sermon states that gossip kills three people: the one who gossips, the one who listens, and the one being gossiped about. How have you experienced or witnessed this destruction in your own community?
4. When someone confronts you about something hurtful you said or did, do you tend to reject, receive, or redeem the conversation, and what would it look like to grow in this area?
5. How does understanding that Jesus endured lies and false accusations in order to save liars change your perspective on extending grace to others who have lied about or to you?

6. The sermon mentions that 60% of people lie at least once in a 10-minute conversation. What small, seemingly insignificant lies have become normalized in your daily interactions, and how might you address them?
7. How does the Matthew 18 model of conflict resolution contrast with how conflicts typically unfold in your relationships, workplace, or church community?
8. In what ways might you be participating in the court of public opinion through social media, and how can you become a person who brings truth rather than gossip or slander?
9. The pastor suggests that men especially need to lead their families in confession and repentance. How can both men and women model humility and truth-telling in their homes and relationships?
10. Proverbs 18:17 says the first to state their case seems right until another examines them. How can you practice hearing both sides before forming judgments about people or situations?