




TEACHING THE ELEVEN COMMANDMENTS

# FACT-CHECK LIVING

## look back

First, **LOOK BACK** at the past week by asking, "How did we do?" Begin with prayer, then check in with one another—sharing honestly, celebrating victories, acknowledging struggles, and graciously offering practical help.

**PRAYER** - Begin with prayer, inviting Jesus into the conversation.

**Then discuss last week's assignment:**

- Did you talk with a grandchild about what God's Word says about stealing and generosity?
- What did you choose to give together, and how did they respond?
- As you examined your own habits, was there anything you needed to make right?

## look up

Next, **LOOK UP** to God's Word by asking, "What does Jesus want us to know?" If you haven't already, watch this week's video: *"Fact-Check Living."* Then use the summary, questions, and Scriptures below to draw out the main truths together.

**WATCH: Episode 9: Fact-Check Living**

### Episode Summary

The Ninth Commandment tells us not to bear false witness. Or, put positively, **to tell the truth.** Truthfulness begins with the character of God. God is truth, and as His image-bearers, we are called to become people who hear the truth, believe the truth, and tell the truth. That calling is especially important in an age of viral misinformation, gossip, manipulated images, and AI-generated content.

Lies are not harmless: they can destroy reputations, relationships, and lives. Teaching this commandment to NextGens means helping them learn to **slow down, check the facts, resist spreading what they cannot verify, and speak what is true with both courage and grace.**

*We are called to hear the truth, believe the truth, and tell the truth.*

### HOW TO USE THESE RESOURCES

Whether you're studying on your own or with a group, each guide follows a simple yet powerful rhythm: **Look Back / Look Up / Look Forward.** For group leaders, additional instructions for leading a small group are included at the end of the first workbook in each series.

### ABOUT THIS STUDY

God's commandments give us a moral compass for navigating a world where truth and values are increasingly up for grabs. This eleven-part series explores the Ten Commandments and Jesus' "new commandment" to love one another as He has loved us. More than a list of restrictions, God's commands reveal His character, show us our need for Jesus, and guide us in passing on His legacy of love to the next generations.

### WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. How does knowing that God is truth shape the way you think about your own responsibility to be truthful?
2. Why can gossip, slander, and false information be so destructive?
3. How could greater patience protect you from spreading something false?
4. What challenges do social media and AI-generated content create for your NextGen loved ones, and your fellow seniors as well?
5. How can you model both grace and truth when you disagree with someone or discover that something they believe is false?

# Episode Notes

**1. We are called to be people of truth.**

- God is truth, and we are created to bear His image.
- The Ninth Commandment calls us not merely to avoid lying, but to become truth-tellers.

**2. Lies hurt people.**

- Bearing false witness can destroy reputations, relationships, and even lives.
- Gossip and slander are never harmless.

**3. Truth-telling takes effort.**

- Don't believe or share something simply because it confirms what you already think.
- Listen, study, verify, and fact-check before passing information along.

**4. Truth-telling takes patience.**

- We do not need to react immediately to everything we hear or see.
- Time often exposes what is false and confirms what is true.

**5. Truth-telling takes grace.**

- Jesus was full of both grace and truth.
- Speak truth without name-calling, arrogance, or mean-spiritedness.

## WHAT DOES GOD'S WORD SAY?

### KEY SCRIPTURE

**Ephesians 4:25 - "Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body."** The positive side of the Ninth Commandment is becoming someone who consistently speaks truth. Truthfulness protects relationships and reflects our responsibility to one another.

### SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE

**James 1:19 - "My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry."** Truth-telling requires patience. Listening carefully and slowing down before speaking can keep us from spreading something we later discover was false.

## look forward

Finally, **LOOK FORWARD** by asking, "What does Jesus want us to do?" Commit to practical steps for living out this week's lesson. Review the assignment, share commitments with the group, pray for one another, and move forward together in faith and hope.

### ADDITIONAL REFERENCES

Exodus 20:16; John 14:6;
Proverbs 18:17;
1 John 4:1; John 8:44

### THIS EPISODE'S ASSIGNMENT

Practice **fact-check living** with a grandchild or NextGen loved one this week. Find a questionable online post, headline, video, statistic, or rumor and investigate it together. Dialogue about how to determine whether it is true. Look for the original source and compare reliable information before deciding what to believe or share. Discuss why followers of Jesus should value and tell the truth.

During the week, practice the same habit yourself: pause before you pass it on.

### PERSONAL GROWTH COMMITMENTS

- What has God laid on my heart?
- What is the Holy Spirit leading me to change?
- What will I do in my own life, in my relationships, and to reach NextGen loved ones?

### SHARE WITH THE GROUP

Encourage sharing commitments, prayer needs, and real-life stories. Close in prayer, asking Jesus to help you discern what is true and speak the truth in love.