

TAKE HOME SHEET



**Series:** Top 10  
**Message:** Tell the Truth  
**Speaker:** Rusty Coram  
**Date:** May 28, 2023

What are some of the reasons people don't tell the truth?

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Have you ever had someone lie to or about you?

If so, how did it affect your relationship with them?

Have you ever gossiped about someone? How would you feel if you discovered they gossiped about you?

Ephesians 4:15 tells us to “*speaking the truth in love*”. If we speak the truth without love it can be harsh and cruel. If we speak with love but not truth, we will have shallow friendships.

Is there anyone you have wronged by your words either by being dishonest, gossiping, or slander?

If so, take a moment now and ask God's forgiveness.

*But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.*

1 John 1:9 (NLT)

Consider whether it would be appropriate to go to anyone you lied to or gossiped about and ask their forgiveness for your behavior. If you aren't sure, talk with your Small Group leader or a mature Christian friend for advice.

**BIBLE TRANSLATIONS:**

NLT – New Living Translation

MESSAGE NOTES



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*You must not testify falsely against your neighbor.*  
Exodus 20:16 (NLT)

**truth** (def): what is factual, conforming with reality

<sup>25</sup> So stop telling lies. Let us tell our neighbors the truth, for we are all parts of the same body. <sup>26</sup> And “don’t sin by letting anger control you.” Don’t let the sun go down while you are still angry, <sup>27</sup> for anger gives a foothold to the devil.”  
Ephesians 4:25–27 (NLT)

**gossip** (def): telling secret things about others, true or untrue

*A gossip goes around telling secrets, so don’t hang around with chatterers.*  
Proverbs 20:19 (NLT)

**slander** (def): broadcasting gossip, defaming

<sup>1</sup>...in the last days there will be very difficult times.  
<sup>2</sup> For people will love only themselves and their money. They will be boastful and proud, scoffing at God, disobedient to their parents, and ungrateful. They will consider nothing sacred. <sup>3</sup> They will be unloving and unforgiving; they will slander others and have no self-control. They will be cruel and hate what is good. <sup>4</sup> They will betray their friends,

*be reckless, be puffed up with pride, and love pleasure rather than God. <sup>5</sup> They will act religious, but they will reject the power that could make them godly. Stay away from people like that!*  
2 Timothy 3:1–5 (NLT)

**God has called us to be people who are truthful and loving – always!**

*Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church.*  
Ephesians 4:15 (NLT)

**Four Benefits of Being Truthful**

**1. Real friendship with God**

<sup>1</sup> Who may worship in your sanctuary, Lord? Who may enter your presence on your holy hill?  
<sup>2</sup> Those who lead blameless lives and do what is right, speaking the truth from sincere hearts.  
<sup>3</sup> Those who refuse to gossip or harm their neighbors or speak evil of their friends.  
Psalm 15:1–3 (NLT)

**2. Peace**

*Then you will experience God’s peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.*  
Philippians 4:7 (NLT)

**3. Clear conscience**

*The purpose of my instruction is that all believers would be filled with love that comes from a pure heart, a clear conscience, and genuine faith.*  
1 Timothy 1:5 (NLT)

*Because of this, I always try to maintain a clear conscience before God and all people.*  
Acts 24:16 (NLT)

**4. True friendship with others**

<sup>9</sup> Don’t just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good. <sup>10</sup> Love each other with genuine affection and take delight in honoring each other.  
Romans 12:9-10 (NLT)