

## **8th Grade Homestudy Lesson #9**

### **The Eighth Commandment**

#### **GOAL**

The goal of this lesson is to teach you about the importance of being a truthful person and how the eighth commandment guides us to be truthful in what we do, what we say, and how we interact with others.

#### **The Ten Commandments**

1. I am the Lord your God, you shall not have any other gods before me.
2. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
3. Keep holy the Lord's day.
4. Honor your father and mother.
5. You shall not kill.
6. You shall not commit adultery.
7. You shall not steal.
- 8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.**
9. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's possessions.

#### **MAIN IDEAS**

- God is the source of all truth and, created in His image and likeness, we are called to uphold the truth in both what we say and what we do.
- There are many offenses against truth, such as lying, sharing wrong information, boasting, bragging, and encouraging others who are not being truthful.
- Trust is the foundation of all human relationships. In order to be a trustworthy person, it is essential to be honest — in both the small and big things.

#### **TEACHING**

##### **THE TRUTH**

No one likes being lied to. When we tell lies to one another, we break apart friendships, which leads to a lack of trust in one another. (CCC 2464) As human beings, we were created in the image and likeness of God, who is the source of all truth. Wanting to know the truth and desiring to be told the truth come from the way we were created. (CCC 2465-2466) It is not easy but we are called to be truthful people who follow Jesus and His example, even if it is unpopular or difficult. When we do what is right, we will be the most happy. (CCC 2471-2474)

**Pause and read Matthew 16:24-26**

##### **OFFENSES AGAINST TRUTH**

Being a truthful person, however, does not mean that you share all of the information you know with everyone you know. (CCC 2469, 2477) There are times when you should not share information with others, even if they ask. It does not mean that you tell a lie, but that you simply do not share information that others do not need to know. (CCC 2467-2474) Being honest — speaking truth and acting in a truthful way — also includes the way we act around those who are doing something wrong. We should never encourage someone who is doing something wrong or support someone when they act in a way that we know is not right. (CCC 2480) At the very core of being an honest and truthful person, however, is choosing to never tell a lie. Lying is speaking falsehood with the intention of deceiving, or doing and saying things to lead someone into error. A lie is the most direct offense against truth. (CCC 2482-2483) Lies have different levels of gravity, depending on how severe the outcome of the lie is, but lying is to be condemned in all circumstances. (CCC 2484-2485) Lying breaks apart human relationships and greatly harms friendships, families, communities, and society. (CCC 2486)

#### FOR YOU/FROM YOU

No one wants to be lied to and yet, sometimes it can seem easier to lie than to tell the truth. We might be tempted to tell a lie if we know that telling the truth will get us in trouble, but while we might be off the hook for a little bit, those consequences will eventually come back. If you get in the habit of lying in small things, it is more likely that you will lie in bigger things. While all lying hurts relationships, the more you lie, the more people you will hurt. All of our relationships are founded on trust. If you want to be known as a trustworthy person and have good friendships and relationships with your family, you must be honest — in both the big and small things.

#### SEND

*Honesty is important in every area of our lives, most especially in our prayers. We may think that we have to say the right words when we pray or that we are not allowed to be truthful with God about what we think about Him or our lives, but the truth is that God can handle our honesty. He wants us to be honest with Him in our prayers; He cares about every detail of our lives and wants to hear about it from us in a real way — not just with the right words but with our words. There is a time and place for prayers that we all know like the Our Father and Hail Mary, but we should also have times of prayer that are honest conversation with God.*

Below, write a prayer to God about anything in your life. Be honest with Him about how you feel about a situation in your life or simply talk to Him about how you feel about Him. There are no wrong words; God can handle your honesty

## **QUESTIONS**

1. What does it mean to be a person of integrity and honesty?
2. How does the 8th commandment relate to your life as a middle school student? What do you think this commandment might say about social media?
3. How does this commandment protect the integrity of our relationships and society?
4. What should you do when someone asks you for information that they do not/should not need to know? Give an example.