

MAIN POINT

The Lord detests lying, and if we are His followers, we will be known as those who tell the truth.

INTRODUCTION

What are some examples of how lying is excused—if not celebrated—in our culture?

Do you think lying is a problem for believers? Why or why not? Share a time when choosing to tell the truth cost you something.

Lying is as old as humanity. The very first sin was the result of Adam and Eve believing the lies of Satan. Everyone is tempted to lie at some point. Even though the Bible frequently and firmly condemns lying, a few stories in the Bible seem to present lying as acceptable in certain situations. Today, many of us find lying an all-too-convenient way of navigating difficult situations, and we may even view it as the noble or right thing to do in certain situations. So how are we as Christians supposed to think about lying? In this study, we will look at how God feels about lying and how we are to live truthfully as His people.

DISCUSSION

> READ PROVERBS 6:16-19, JOHN 8:44, EPHESIANS 4:22-25, 1 JOHN 1:9-10 AND 2:4.

Generally speaking, what are the various motivations for lying?

Is there ever a time when lying is acceptable? When? Why?

If God detests lying, then what can we infer about His heart?

According to Ephesians 4:22-25, how are lying and deceit characteristics of the old self?

What sins usually accompany lying? How does lying ultimately destroy both us and those around us?

If lying is part of the old self, then why do believers still lie?

Paul said that the new self is created to be like God in “righteousness and purity of the truth” (Eph. 4:24). How are “righteousness” and “purity of the truth” related? Why do you think truth is described as “pure”?

What reason did Paul give for speaking truthfully to one’s neighbor?

When dealing with sins, why is it important to remember who the leader of all sin is? How does knowing that the devil is “the father of lies” (John 8:44) help us discern the truth and live more honest lives?

Since all of us are tempted to lie at some point, and all of us have failed in this area at times, what is the good news John gave in 1 John 1:9?

APPLICATION

What lies do you need to confess and repent of? How does being people characterized by truth give us more credibility when sharing the gospel with others?