

is the antithesis of God, because God can not lie, and Jesus claimed to be “the truth”.

*18 So God has given both his promise and his oath. These two things are unchangeable because it is impossible for God to lie...
- Hebrews 6:18a NLT*

6 Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me. - John 14:6 NLT

22 The LORD detests lying lips, but he delights in those who tell the truth. - Proverbs 12:22 NLT

We have a choice when we speak, to draw closer to God or pull away. How does Proverbs 12:22 contrast God's response to liars and those who tell the truth?

WRAP-UP

There is a clear delineation between the God who cannot lie and the Father of Lies in whom there is no truth. We want to align our hearts with God and resist the devil's temptation to lie, even when its accepted, convenient, or advantageous. The truth can be painful, but it is worth it because it draws you nearer to your loving heavenly Father.

MEMORY VERSE

7 You used to do these things when your life was still part of this world. 8 But now is the time to get rid of anger, rage, malicious behavior, slander, and dirty language. 9 Don't lie to each other, for you have stripped off your old sinful nature and all its wicked deeds. 10 Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him. - Colossians 3:7-10 NLT

Challenge-

Be aware of your conversations this week. Don't let the truth be diluted, or obscured, and don't fall to the temptation to lie even when those around you are.

Liar!

Hunger for Holiness Week 3

INTRODUCTION

Do you consider yourself an honest person? Probably you don't believe you are a liar. When we think of lying, we may know it is a sin, but we might not consider it very serious unless it is a “really big” lie. Little white lies are certainly acceptable in our culture, and perhaps even expected. But what does it say about our hearts when we lie to one another, to ourselves, or to God? What are the consequences of lying and how does God view lies?

Ice Breaker

What is the first time you remember getting caught in a lie (probably as child)?

Key Passage

9 Don't lie to each other, for you have stripped off your old sinful nature and all its wicked deeds. - Colossians 3:9 NLT

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Why We Lie

We don't have to go very far in the Bible to find lying. Adam and Eve didn't lie outright, although they did some blame-shifting when they answered God's questions about what they ate. But when Cain killed his brother and God confronted him, there was no getting around it, he lied to God. And when Abram told Sarai to say she was his sister, it wasn't exactly the whole truth.

9 Afterward the LORD asked Cain, "Where is your brother? Where is Abel?" "I don't know," Cain responded. "Am I my brother's guardian?" ... 13 Cain replied to the LORD, "My punishment is too great for me to bear!" - Genesis 4:9, 13 NLT

13 So please tell them you are my sister. Then they will spare my life and treat me well because of their interest in you." - Genesis 12:13 NLT

In these two instances, what appears to be the motivation for lying? Do you consider it acceptable to lie if you are avoiding the consequences of your actions? What if you are protecting yourself and others from harm?

Abram's decision to deceive Pharaoh seems justifiable. But it revealed that he didn't trust God to protect him and his wife and relied on deception for protection. The result was that Pharaoh took her as his wife, and God sent plagues to gain her release.

What do you think would have happened if Abram and Sarai had not lied?

3 Then Peter said, "Ananias, why have you let Satan fill your heart? You lied to the Holy Spirit, and you kept some of the money for yourself. 4 The property was yours to sell or not sell, as you wished. And after selling it, the money was also yours to give away. How could you do a thing like this? You weren't lying to us but to God!" - Acts 5:3-4 NLT

In the book of Acts, Ananias held back some of his profit while donating the rest. But he made it look like he had given all.

Why would Ananias want people to believe he had given all of the proceeds from the sale of his property? Based on Peter's response, what was at the heart of his issue? Do you think we still feel pressure to do the same?

Sometimes the worst lies we tell are the ones we tell ourselves. We really don't want to admit we are sinners in need of a savior. Rather than confess our sin, we convince ourselves that we aren't really doing anything wrong, or that we are much better than someone else. But

when we do that, we are calling God a liar. He has declared, all have sinned (Jer 14:20), and no one is righteous (Rom 3:10).

If we know all have sinned and God is faithful to forgive the sins we confess, why would we continue to lie to ourselves and claim we have no sin to confess? What can we do to change that?

2. The Consequences of Lies

When you consider the source of lies, you must realize that the devil is called the Father of lies. He is also the thief who comes to steal, kill, and destroy. Lies are a weapon of our enemy against us as individuals and against the body of Christ.

What are some of the lies you have seen Satan use to destroy unity in the body of Christ, or friendships, marriages and families? How can we use Phil 4:8 to combat the temptation to lie.

8 And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise. - Philippians 4:8 NLT

Sometimes speaking the truth in love is a matter of pausing to listen to God before we speak.

19 Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry. ... 22 But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. - James 1:19, 22 NLT

James says if we listen but don't do what God's word tells us, we are fooling ourselves. What is the lie we are prone to believe about ourselves if we only listen to God without doing what He says?

3. How God Views Lying

Perhaps the greatest consequence of lying is that it distances us from God. We may minimize the significance of lying, but God does not. It