

March 10, 2019



Exodus 20:16

### **SERMON SUMMARY**

<sup>13</sup>“You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.”

Exodus 20:16

- The term “bear false witness” is a judicial term; in a court of law, lying could cost the most.
- Speaking in a way that harms your neighbor is the highest form of lying

The God of **truth** desires a people **marked** by truth.

- This requires truth-telling and truth-living
- We are to be marked by truth because we are to be like our Father God
  - 1 Samuel 15:29 – God doesn’t lie or change his mind
  - John 14:6 – Jesus is the truth
  - John 8:44 – Satan is the father of lies

### **Marked by Truth**

1. Honor your neighbor by **protecting** their name
  - a. How do we unjustly damage someone’s reputation?
    - i. Slander: openly criticizing what should have been privately confronted; saying one event is the totality of who they are
    - ii. Revealing: sharing something without the person’s permission; gossip
2. Honor God by **living** truthfully
  - a. What does it look like to not live by the truth?
    - i. Exaggerating
    - ii. Twisting the truth
    - iii. Withholding information
    - iv. Not following through with our word
    - v. Making empty excuses
  - b. Why do we lie?
    - i. Pretending to be someone/something else
    - ii. Protecting our reputation, etc
    - iii. We pretend and protect ourselves because we believe that if we’re fully known, we won’t be loved. That is contrary to the reality of how Jesus sees us!

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3. Embrace our identity as Jesus' **witnesses**
  - a. What kind of witness are we when we live lives marked by:
    - i. Anxiety & worry – God does not have my good in mind
    - ii. Rebellion – God's ways are not good
    - iii. Materialism – God is not enough

*Are you a true witness of God?*

## DISCUSSION

### Reminders for small group leaders:

- We want everyone to interact with God's Word. Please have Bibles available for students who don't have one. We have a limited amount of Bibles available at church, so remind your people to bring theirs if they have one. **Be sure to open up your Bibles together during small group!**
  - Set aside a time to **pray** for each other during every POD. Try not to rush through this time as it's good to have people pray for each other.
  - Regularly **recap** how your POD is doing with your co-leaders. Are you meeting your goals? How can you help your people grow in relationship with God and with each other? Is there anyone in your POD who needs encouragement, prayer, or a meeting with one of you this week?
  - The teaching happened on Sunday at church. **The purpose of small groups is to ask two questions:** 1) *What is God saying to me in His Word?*, 2) *What is He asking me to do in response?*
  - Your role is to help everyone answer these two questions so that God can do His work of transforming hearts and lives.
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### **RECAP with your co-leader/REFLECT by yourself**

- *What stood out to you/encouraged you/challenged you, etc from the message?*
- *What is the learning point and/or action point you want the people in your small group to leave with?*
- *How would you summarize the sermon in one or two sentences?*

### **QUESTIONS**

*Choose (if any) questions that would be good for your group to discuss, or make up your own!*

#### **Getting to know you**

- What importance does our society place on truth today? Is telling the truth something that's respected? Think of some examples.
- How do people today determine what is "truth"?

#### **Into the Bible**

- **Read Exodus 20:16.** What does this commandment mean? Why does this commandment say to not "bear false witness about our neighbor" instead of just 'not lying'?

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- **Read 1 Samuel 15:29, John 14:6, and John 8:44.** How do we imitate God's character by not lying or bearing false witness about our neighbor?

### Application

- **Read Ephesians 4:29.** Are there instances where it is easy for you to protect your neighbors name? When can it be difficult for you to protect your neighbor's name?
- What are times when it is difficult for you to live by the truth? Examples given:
  - *Exaggerate*
  - *Twist the truth*
  - *Withhold info*
  - *Not follow through with your word*
  - *Make empty excuses*
- Your life can either witness truth about Jesus' character or not. Three examples given on Sunday that witnesses to others about what we believe about Jesus were: anxiety/worry, rebellion, and materialism. What do lives marked by these things witness about God?
  - *Anxiety & worry – God does not have my good in mind; I cannot trust God*
  - *Rebellion – God's ways are not good*
  - *Materialism – God is not enough*
- As Christians, we live according the Bible because Jesus is truth (John 14:6) and the source of truth. How will we know whether or not we're living truthful lives or living according to truth?
  - *We need to be saturated with God's Word. How are you to know that you're not living according to the truth as stated in the Bible by Jesus or according to a false truth, when you don't know what the Bible says?*

### PRAY

**Read Proverbs 6:16-19.** Ask God to help you hate what He hates so that our character becomes more like His.

Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you when you are lying about someone else, twisting the truth, or not honoring God by living truthfully

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### *College students*

See you at **Epic on Thursday night** at 7:30pm at MU13 for our last gathering of the term!

Want to take a bigger role in Epic next year? On Monday, March 4 you'll be able to sign up to be an **Epic leader!** Be on the lookout for the link on social media. We're looking for POD leaders/assistants and people to be on Outreach Team, Freshmen Team, Creative Team, and Homeless Ministry. Have any questions about the roles? Ask your POD leader.

#### *Women*

**Table for 5** is happening on Saturday, April 6 from 11:30am-2pm. This event is for women high school and up to meet with four other random women from our church for lunch in Corvallis. Sign up and see the insert in the Sunday program for more info. Questions? Email [elena@osuepic.com](mailto:elena@osuepic.com).

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A **Clothing Swap** will also be happening after Table for 5 (see info above). If you have gently used or like-new clothing you want to donate, drop them off in the church office by March 31.

### *Youth*

**The Corvallis Retreat** for middle and high school students is happening April 5-7. Cost is \$25. To sign up, visit [grantavebc.org](http://grantavebc.org). Invite your friends!

The youth will be doing a **Homeless Outreach** on Saturday, March 16 from 7:45-10:30am. They will meet at the church at 7:45am to head downtown to pass out breakfast bags in Corvallis.

### *Senior Adults*

The next **senior adult lunch** will be this Thursday, March 14 at Sweet Water's Restaurant in Albany. Meet at the restaurant at 12:30pm.

The next **senior adult day trip** to the Historic Carousel and Museum in Albany will be on Thursday, March 21. Meet at the church at 11am to ride together for lunch at Izzy's then the carousel. The cost is \$2 per ride on the carousel.

### *All church*

Our first-ever **Marriage Conference** will be happening on May 3-4 at the church. Individuals, dating couples, and engaged couples are also welcome to join for teaching, discussion, games, and snacks. Childcare is also provided, but you must register by April 21.

Friday, May 3 from 6:30-8:30pm (optional dinner at 5:30pm)

Saturday, May 4 from 9am-3pm

Cost: \$30 for couples, \$20 for individuals

**Vacation Bible School** is happening July 8-12! If you want to volunteer to help with teaching, crafts, snacks, music, or anything else, contact Carrie Bernard at [carrie@grantavebc.org](mailto:carrie@grantavebc.org).