

THE NINTH COMMANDMENT

"Thou shalt not bear false witness." Exodus 20:16

A. The Command in the Old Testament: Read Exodus 20:16

1. Who told the first lie? Compare Genesis 2:16, 17 with Genesis 3:1-5;
John 8:44b
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2. When human beings tell lies, whose example are they following? John 8:44
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B. A New Testament Example: Very soon after the Lord Jesus left this earth to go back to Heaven, someone broke this commandment. Read about this in Acts 4:32-5:11.

1. What were all the Christians doing with their houses and lands? Acts 4:34b
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2. Why were they doing this? Acts 4:35
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3. What did Ananias and Sapphira do with the money they got from selling their land?

a. Acts 5:1, 2a _____

b. Acts 5:2b _____

4. What sin did they commit in doing this? Acts 5:3
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5. Can you find anything in this passage which would indicate that Ananias actually told a lie?
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6. Was what he did and said partly true?
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7. Who did Peter say had caused Ananias to do this? Acts 5:3
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8. Where did this sin begin? Acts 5:3, 4
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9. To Whom had Ananias really lied? Acts 5:3, 4
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10. What happened to Ananias?

a. Acts 5:5 _____

b. Acts 5:6 _____

11. Who else told a lie besides Ananias? Acts 5:7-9
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12. What happened to her? Acts 5:10

a. _____

b. _____

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13. How did the other people feel when they saw how God had punished these two? Acts 5:5, 11

C. The Command in the New Testament:

1. How is this command stated in the New Testament? Colossians 3:9

2. What will be the end of all liars? Revelation 21:27, 22:14, 15, 21:8

D. The Command in Present-Day Life:

1. Does God make any distinction between:

a. half-truths and lies? _____

b. "white" lies and "black" lies? _____

c. "little" lies and "big" lies? _____

Psalm 51:6 says, "Behold, Thou desirest truth in the inward parts."

2. Is it enough simply to tell the truth at all times? (See Ephesians 4:15a)

3. In what other way can one tell a lie besides with his words? (See Hebrews 13:18b; 1 Thessalonians 4:12a)

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Do *any* of my words...or *any* of my actions...bear false witness?

2. What three things can help me to speak and act truthfully at all times? (See John 14:6, 16:13, 17:17)
