

Aim: To understand the meaning of the ninth Commandment.

This term we will be learning more about the Ten Commandments; and this week we are looking at the 9th Commandment.

Read the 9th Commandment in Exodus 20:16

What does testify mean?

It's not a word that we use much in our ordinary talking, but it is still used in courts. When a person has to tell the court what they know we say they have to testify.

So what does testifying falsely mean? It means saying something about someone that you know is false – it means you are lying.

Here are some Bible verses about lying: *(Read them out or have the juniors look them up)*

Leviticus 19:11_{NIV} - Do not steal. Do not lie; do not deceive one another.

Proverbs 12:22_{NLT} - The Lord detests lying lips, but He delights in those who tell the truth.

How does God feel about lying? God hates lies; God is truth and so lies are the opposite of God. In John 8:44, Satan is called a liar and the "Father of lies!"

Now I know that a lot of adults think that it is OK to use what they call "little white lies" – that's what they call the little lies that don't really hurt anyone.

Can you think of any examples of "little white lies?" (Lying about being sick; about losing your homework; telling someone they look great when they don't...)

Last term we learnt that sin is anything that goes against God's way; sin is breaking God's Commandments; and that Jesus said that even thinking about breaking one of God's Commandments is sin. (1 John 3:15)
That means if anyone even thinks about lying, they have broken the Commandment. So if thinking about lying, is breaking the Commandment then actually lying – even if it is only a little lie, is definitely breaking it.

But that doesn't mean that you should say things that are true just to hurt people either. Ephesians 4:15 says "speak the truth in love..."

(You could discuss some ideas on how to phrase things tactfully without lying.)

Did you know that you can lie without saying anything? And I'm not talking about just thinking it this time. When you keep quiet and let someone believe something that is wrong, you are lying. For example, if the teacher thinks that a certain student made a rude noise, but you know who really did it and you say nothing then you are lying.

Discuss other examples

Discuss, draw or write about some situations where people are tempted to lie; what could happen? What should they do etc?