

### Discussion Questions

- Why can't we just get along with everyone and let each person have their own truth?
- Why is the gospel the truth every person needs to hear?

### **Day 5 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse**

We've talked this week about truth and lies. We are called to believe and speak truth as followers of Jesus, who is the truth. Sometimes speaking about truth and falsehood can seem very academic. Truth is not just a series of propositions about the world. The Bible speaks of truth both in terms of propositions, what is true, and in terms of how we live. Jesus is very concerned not that we just say we believe the truth, but that we also live in accordance with that truth. 1 John 1:5-7 This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. Another way of looking at this is whether or not your life is telling lies even if your mouth speaks truth. When we claim the name of Christ yet walk like children of Satan we are lying about the character of our Savior. Unfortunately, even Christians don't always live in a way that tells the truth about God. The Bible gives us hope what we fall. 1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

### Discussion Questions

- How is sinning as a Christian telling lies about God?
- How truthful was Jesus' life in telling us who God is?

# Baptist Catechism

## Family Worship Guide



## West Oaks Baptist Church

(in preparation for Sunday, May 4th, 2025)

### Baptist Catechism Question #81

Q: What is the ninth commandment?

A: *The ninth commandment is, Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.*

### Suggested Memory Verse

*John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."*

### **Day 1 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse**

This week we begin our study of the ninth commandment. This commandment teaches us not to lie about or to our neighbor. As with the previous commandments the ninth encompasses a broad range of applications to our lives as Christians. While we will spend the next 3 weeks exploring these applications, we need to start by seeing the basis for this commandment. The ninth commandment flows from the character of God who is the truth. James 1:17 describes God as the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. God is true in his very essence. This is the basis for Balaam's declaration concerning the dependability of God. Numbers 23:19 God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it? The consequence of the unchangeable nature of God is actually the basis for truth itself, something we will look at further on in the week. Jesus himself reiterates God's truthfulness in his own declaration concerning himself. John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. This identity as The Truth is part and parcel with Jesus' divine nature. He is the Word who is both with God and is God. The Word of God communicates who God is with utter truthfulness.

#### Discussion Questions

- What does it mean that God is truth?
- Why is it important to us that Jesus is the truth?

### **Day 2 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse**

Have you ever lied? Maybe you did it on purpose. Perhaps you didn't intend to lie but ended up going back on your word. As fallen people we have a problem with the truth. We say things to deceive others when it benefits us. We promise without thinking and then quickly forget what we have said. We lie to people, about other people. We lie about God or even to God. Sometimes we lie to ourselves. As Christians God calls on us to speak truth even as He is truth. Jesus is concerned with our tendency to lie in the sermon on the mount. He instructs us not to swear by various things in heaven or earth in order to give weight to our promises to one another. James summarizes this teaching in his letter. James 5:12 But above all, my brothers, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your "yes" be yes and your "no" be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation. The purpose of Jesus here is not to tell us to never make oaths. We are to make solemn promises before God. His concern is to lead us to speak truth all the time and not just when we add extra words to show we mean it. We who are born again into the image of Jesus should speak the truth as Jesus does.

#### Discussion Questions

- What are some different kind of lies we commonly tell. What sort are you prone to?
- What hope does the gospel offer for liars?

### **Day 3 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse**

Yesterday we considered Jesus' call for us to speak truth at all times. Truth is essential to the nature of God and therefore part of the moral and natural law. Yet, we have such trouble being truthful. Some of us try to avoid outright lies while others are pretty comfortable with them. All of us, however, find lies to be more natural than we'd like. We tell partial truths to our friends and family when it suits us. We are tempted to stretch the truth when it comes to our jobs or doing our taxes. We even lie and tell church friends we are doing fine when we really aren't. From little lies to big ones we have a problem with the truth. Why is that? Ultimately our struggle with the truth finds its origin in our sinful natures. In the garden Adam and Eve were deceived by Satan. They believed his lies concerning God and became liars themselves. John 8:44 You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. Our lies show we are sinners aligned with Satan and enemies of God. Our only hope of salvation from our lies and the judgment they bring is to believe in Jesus. He is the truth and the only way to be children of God.

#### Discussion Questions

- What is a white lie? Do you think white lies are a big deal to God?
- Are you still of the devil or have you believed in Jesus and become a child of God?

### **Day 4 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse**

Just as we have a problem with the truth, our world also has major issues with truth. We live in a world that thinks truth is relative. We speak about 'your truth' and 'my truth' as if those can be different things. We think truth can be different for various cultures, races, economic classes, or ideological persuasions. Truth seems to be whatever we want it to be. This version of the truth that the world holds out is at war with our God who is the truth. Because God is the truth and God does not change, that means truth is not relative. This leads Christians to hold what is called a correspondent understanding of truth. Truth corresponds to reality. It's not just what we think in our heads or decide for the day. How can we know what is true? God reveals truth to us in nature. He also has given us His word. John 17:17 Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. When the world around us tries to confuse us concerning what is true, we must go back to God's word to learn what really is true. Sometimes when we read God's word we find that the world has been lying to us. Other times we will read God's word and realize we've been lying ourselves concerning what is true. Our call then is to repent and believe what God has said.