

our neighbour's good name. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us (2 Corinthians 5:20). There are times when we will be smeared or made fun of for following Christ, but Peter says...*If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you* (1 Peter 4:14). Those insulting you do not have what Christians have, the good name of Christ resting upon them. Proclaim to them the mighty truth of God.

Discussion Questions

- How does being a truthful person help to preserve your own good name?
- Why should we care about preserving the good name of others?
- If you are a Christian, share what it means to you that Jesus is willing to let you go by His good name?

Day 5 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

The ninth commandment specifically calls us to truthfulness our witness bearing. Bearing witness generally means to provide evidence or testimony that something is true or has happened. This can be in your family, at church, work, and even court. How many times have you been asked to bear witness about something? Did you see it, did you hear it, did it happen this way? This could also include publicly declaring your faith and the truths of God's Word. The basis for bearing witness certainly comes from God's Word. Think about what the courts often ask witnesses...Do you promise to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth? When God spoke to Samuel, listen to what Eli said: *"What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also if you hide anything from me of all that he told you."* So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him (1 Samuel 3:17–18). This concept of the whole truth comes from God's word. John 5:37 *And the Father who sent me has himself borne witness about me.* John 5:39 *You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me.* We ought to bear witness to one another with truthfulness and dependability, just as God has faithfully borne witness to His Son.

Discussion Questions

- Are you known as a truthful witness that people can depend upon?
- In what ways do you bear witness for Jesus?
- Do you bear true witness about each other as Christians?

Baptist Catechism

Family Worship Guide



West Oaks Baptist Church

(in preparation for Sunday, May 11th, 2025)

Baptist Catechism Question #82

Q: What is required in the ninth commandment?

A: *The ninth commandment requireth the maintaining and promoting of truth between man and man, and of our own and our neighbour's good name, especially in witness bearing.*

Suggested Memory Verse

Zechariah 8:16 These are the things that you shall do: Speak the truth to one another; render in your gates judgments that are true and make for peace; (ESV)

Day 1 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

To maintain something is to cause or enable it to continue, so what does it mean to “maintain truth”? John 8:31–32 says, *So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”* It is important then that we first know what truth is if we are ever going to maintain it. We learned last week that God IS truth, and that all he speaks is absolute truth. Being a Christian doesn’t just mean a one-time mental agreement with the truth of the gospel, but a life lived in agreement with that truth. We are to actively abide in His word because we belong to Him, and we are to live and speak in such a way that His truths are proclaimed and affirmed. Maintaining the truth of God could include actively sharing or promoting truth, modeling it or living it out in our daily lives for others to see, keeping a good name and reputation consistent with the name of Christ, and learning to bear a good witness to truth. Maintenance also means being on the lookout for lies that would taint the truth. This week we will explore more ways to maintain truth in our lives, but first it is important to guard our hearts from deception and renew our minds through God’s Word so we can know His truth, and then maintain it.

Discussion Questions

- If you hear something untrue, do you typically correct it? Why or why not?
- We hear lies around us all the time, so why is it important for us to maintain truth?
- Do you live in a way that maintains (or supports the truth of) the gospel?

Day 2 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

We are not only called to maintain the truth but to promote truth, too. While maintaining truth may have more to do with preventing deception, to promote is to actively further truth’s progress. How do we promote truth? By first seeking out accurate reality. God is truth, everything He says is true, so we should seek out God and listen to Him. He communicates through his Word and we should measure all other information by that. If it does not line up to God’s Word, it is not true. Then we should promote or proclaim to the world God’s Word and the turning to God’s Word for truth. We need to resist the lies and misinformation of Satan and the world and calmly point to Christ as our truth. Start by personal reading and engagement with God’s Word through prayer. Memorizing scripture and meditating on it. This will help you promote it to others by sharing your faith, what you have been reading, showing what you trust is true. It will help you to engage in your community and promote God’s Word as truth by prayer, sharing God-given talents, evangelism, etc. Jesus says in John 16:33 *...In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.* This is an encouragement to us as Christians, and promoting God’s truth can also be an encouragement to others. Promoting God’s truth can offer hope and encouragement to a lost and dying people.

Discussion Questions

- How confident are you in the truths of scripture? Do you feel like you can promote them?
- Why does it sometimes seem easier to just let everyone think or believe what they want?
- How can you grow in your ability to promote God’s truths to the people around you?

Day 3 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

The ninth commandment requires the maintaining and promoting of truth between people. We are to speak truth, maintain truth, and promote truth between us. Zechariah 8:16 says *These are the things that you shall do: Speak the truth to one another; render in your gates judgments that are true and make for peace.* What happens when you try to look something up on the Internet today? You don’t even know if it is true! In fact, we live in a society that doesn’t even believe in truth. It is a you-live-your-truth and I-will-live-my-truth kind of world. How can this work? Well, it does not really work and it just ignores that there is one absolute truth whether people believe it or not. What we say or think can never change reality. And yet, so often we try to do just that by lying and manipulating others. God has called His people to speak truth to one another because he created us and gave us new life. James 1:18 *Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.* To lie is to deny or try to manipulate reality as God made it. Instead, we share the truth of the gospel with other men and become a light in the darkness. Colossians 3:9–10 *Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.*

Discussion Questions

- What are some reasons people often lie to one another?
- If you are a Christian, what are some ways you have become more truthful as you grow to be like Christ?
- Are there areas that you still need to grow in truthfulness?

Day 4 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

Reputations are important. Many children are taught to hold their family name in high regard because what they do and say reflects on others in the family. Big companies, too, have reputations. Exxon/Valdez might stand out for having big wrecks and oil spills. Rolex might be known for their quality and expensiveness. What do people think of when they hear your name? Proverbs 22:1 says *...A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, and favor is better than silver or gold.* Ecclesiastes 7:1 says *...A good name is better than precious ointment.* It is not about our fame or status, or wealth, but it is about God’s glory. As Christians, we bear *His* name. God has saved us, changed us into new creatures to live and glorify Him alone. We should live lives that reflect that truth. The ninth commandment requires the maintaining and promoting of truth between man and man, and of our own and