

### Discussion Questions

- Have anyone ever spread lies about you? How harmful was it?
- Which is more tempting for you, slander or flattery?

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

As we work our way through the Baptist Catechism, we have been learning to think more deeply about the ten commandments. The Westminster Larger Catechism actually has a really good expanded answer to this week's question, so we'll finish the week with a modern phrasing of Q145: "The sins forbidden in the ninth commandment are the following: anything that puts at risk the truth, or the good name of our neighbors as much as our own, especially in a public trial; giving false evidence, encouraging false witnesses, or knowingly appearing and pleading for an evil cause; defying or facing down the truth; passing unjust sentences, calling evil good or calling good evil, or rewarding the wicked according to the work of the righteous or the righteous according to the work of the wicked; forgery; concealing the truth, undue silence in a just cause, or holding our peace when sin calls for either a reproof from ourselves or a complaint to others; speaking the truth at inappropriate times or maliciously for an evil purpose; perverting the truth to a wrong meaning or in vague and equivocal expressions, to the risk of truth or justice; speaking untruth, lying, slandering, backbiting, detracting, tale bearing, whispering, scoffing, and reviling; rash, harsh, or partial censuring; misconstruing intentions, words, and actions; flattering or egotistical boasting; thinking or speaking too highly or too little of ourselves or others; denying the gifts and graces of God; treating small faults as large; hiding, excusing, or downplaying sins when called to a free confession; unnecessary uncovering of the infirmities of others; raising false rumors; receiving and giving credit to evil reports, and refusing to listen to a legitimate defense; evil suspicions; envying or grieving at the deserved credit of anyone, endeavoring or desiring to impair their deserved credit or rejoicing in their disgrace and infamy; scornful contempt or fawning admiration of others; breaking lawful promises; neglecting such things as are of good report of others; and practicing, not avoiding in ourselves, or not hindering in others when we can, things that lead to a bad name."

### Discussion Questions

- Is there anything in this list that surprised you or that you hadn't considered before?
- After reading this list, would you say you have perfectly kept the ninth commandment? If not, where then is your hope?

# Baptist Catechism Family Worship Guide



## **West Oaks Baptist Church**

(in preparation for Sunday, May 18th, 2025)

### **Baptist Catechism Question #83**

**Q:** What is forbidden in the ninth commandment?

**A:** *The ninth commandment forbiddeth whatsoever is prejudicial to the truth, or injurious to our own or our neighbour's good name.*

### **Suggested Memory Verse**

***Leviticus 19:16 You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not stand up against the life of your neighbor: I am the LORD. (ESV)***

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

In this week's study of the ninth commandment we see that it forbids anything prejudicial to the truth. "Prejudicial" means to be harmful or to influence unfairly, and in this case to be harmful or influence people away from the truth. We see a prime example of this at the beginning of the Bible. God created the world, made Adam and Eve, placed them in the garden, and set out the rules to be followed. Things were going great until Satan showed up. *Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made (Genesis 3:1).* Crafty does not mean Satan was good at art crafts but clever at achieving his hidden goal by indirect or deceitful methods. In other words, he was prejudicial (harmful) to the truth. Satan said to the woman... "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" and then in the next verse he says, "You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil" (Genesis 3:2-5). Satan cast doubt on the truth of what God said, influencing Adam and Eve to sin. John 8:44 says about Satan, *When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.*

#### Discussion Questions

- Can you think of ways we might "influence people away from the truth" without speaking a direct lie?

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

In the ninth commandment, God calls us to truthful representations of ourselves and others, and forbids injuring someone's good name by deviating from that truth. Believe it or not, we often do this to ourselves! Sometimes people exaggerate the truth to flatter themselves, but other times people speak negatively of themselves in an attempt to seem humble. Belittling oneself, making oneself appear less significant, or speaking poorly about oneself is not a virtue, it is harming your own good name and it is a lie. Listen to Proverbs 13:7... *One pretends to be rich, yet has nothing; another pretends to be poor, yet has great wealth.* This kind of pretending is not what we as Christians are called to. James 3:14–16 says, *But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic.* When Jesus returns, He says people will *give account for every careless word they speak* (Matthew 12:36-37). Even misrepresenting ourselves in casual conversation is enough to warrant condemnation. Praise God that those who trust in Jesus for their righteousness will not be condemned but have everlasting life.

#### Discussion Questions

- Have you ever lied or downplayed your own strengths? Why?
- How is lying about yourself (for better or worse) a sin against the God who made you?

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

Sometimes we resort to lies to try to preserve our own good name, but this is NOT in keeping with the ninth commandment. We are tempted to excuse our faults and cover our sins, but this kind of deception only harms us even more. This is illustrated in the story of Naaman, a mighty commander of the army of Syria who went to Israel to see Elisha the prophet to be healed of leprosy. After Naaman was healed, he tried to pay the prophet with rich clothes and other valuables, but Elisha would not take them. Elisha's servant, however, could not let such an opportunity go to waste. He went after Naaman and accepted the gifts without Elisha knowing. Scripture says when he got back... *He went in and stood before his master, and Elisha said to him, "Where have you been, Gehazi?" And he said, "Your servant went nowhere." But he said to him, "Did not my heart go when the man turned from his chariot to meet you?... So he went out from his presence a leper, like snow* (2 Kings 5:25–27). Gehazi tried to hide his greed, and often when we fail, we act like there is nothing to see, that it was not our fault, that there was no sin. But 1 John 1:8–9 says... *If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

#### Discussion Questions

- Have you ever tried to hide your sin so that people wouldn't think badly of you?
- Why is it important that we are honest about our sin, even if it may hurt our reputation?

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

The ninth commandment especially forbids abandoning truth in a way that harms the good name of our neighbor. Lying about someone to get them into trouble or make them look bad is called slander, and Leviticus 19:16 says... *You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not stand up against the life of your neighbor: I am the LORD.* Slander is essentially weaponized deception, and Christians should have no part in it. 1 Peter 2:1 says, *So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander.* Even when others have slandered us, we must resist the temptation to slander them back and instead hold firmly to the truth. 1 Peter 3:9 says... *Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing.* Bless others, but do not flatter them with excessive and insincere praise. This, too, is harmful. Psalm 12:2–4 says... *Everyone utters lies to his neighbor; with flattering lips and a double heart they speak. May the LORD cut off all flattering lips, the tongue that makes great boasts.* Our lips and tongues so easily get us into trouble when they are not bridled with the power of Christ. Pray that our speech would be grounded in truth and motivated by love.