



## For further thought and discussion:

### Getting Started

1. What was helpful to you in this week's sermon? What didn't you understand?
2. Think back to your childhood. What's the least convincing lie you told? Did anyone believe you? Why did you tell it?

### Going Deeper

3. The Ninth Commandment forbids us from bearing "*false witness*" against our neighbor (Exodus 20:16). What specific kind of deception does this commandment address? What does it mean to "*bear false witness*" (see Exodus 23:1-3, 6-8; Leviticus 5:1)? Why was this such a serious crime in ancient Israel? What measures does God take to protect people from false witnesses (see Deuteronomy 17:6, 7; 19:15-19)?
4. Does God prohibit deception only in legal contexts (see Leviticus 19:11; Proverbs 6:17; Hosea 4:1-2)? If not, then why does He single out this particular sin in Exodus 20:16?
5. Read Matthew 5:33-37. How did the Jews of Jesus' day *misunderstand* the Ninth Commandment? How does Jesus correct their misunderstanding? Why are all forms of lying destructive? Why is deception incompatible with our identity as God's image-bearers (see Numbers 23:19; Hebrews 6:16-18; see also John 8:44)?

### Application:

6. According to Ephesians 4:25, we obey the Ninth Commandment by speaking the truth with our neighbors. What "*truth*" is Paul referring to here (see Ephesians 1:13; 4:15, 17; see also John 14:6)? What does it mean for us to preach the truth of the gospel to (a) ourselves, and (b) to others? How does this impact you personally?
7. How does the truth of the gospel free us to be radically honest people?
8. What's one thing you can do this week to apply this commandment?