



In Person & Zoom Community Group Lesson – November 13 & 16, 2022

Commandment #9 - Do not lie

Main Point

- You must not lie

Scripture

- “You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.” Exodus 20:16

Prayer Time

- Spend a couple of minutes in praise and prayer to God.

Praise and Worship

- Goodness of God – CeCe Winans
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N8oAnzk9A34>

Memory Verse

- 1 John 5:3
 - “In fact, here is what it means to love God. We love Him by obeying His commands. And His commands are not hard to obey.”

Review of Last Week

- Last week we learned that God wants us to keep our promises to Him and to others.
- Did you talk to God and ask Him to forgive you this week? Maybe for taking something that wasn't yours, or maybe for breaking one of the other commandments.

Lesson

- We are going to learn about what God thinks about lying by reading a story in the Bible about a couple names Ananias and Sapphira, found in Acts 5.
- Jesus had come, died, risen, and ascended into heaven. The Holy Spirit had arrived to the disciples with the sound of a great wind. The early church was growing every day. Some of the people decided to sell certain objects and properties and bring all of the money to Peter and the disciples so it could be used to help anyone in need.
- Not to be out done, Ananias and his wife, Sapphira, sold a piece of property. They kept a portion of the profit for themselves and then planned to give the remainder to the apostles. There is nothing wrong with doing that.

- The problem comes from what Ananias and Sapphira planned. They planned to make themselves look better than they really were. They decided to be sneaky and trick the apostles into thinking they were giving the ENTIRE amount of land profit instead of only a portion.
- But God knows everything. And Peter had a discerning Spirit within him. When Ananias brought the money to Peter, he confronted him and asked, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit?" The land money was theirs. They could do what they wanted with it. But bringing it and lying about the amount was lying to God.
- Ananias had no time to respond. He fell to the ground, took his last breath, and died. Men picked up his body and buried him.
- Three hours later, Sapphira came to Peter not knowing what had happened. Peter asked her if the amount stated by Ananias was THE amount for the property. She agreed with her husband's number. Peter responded, "How is it you two conspired together to test the Spirit? Look, the men who buried your husband is here to bury you." Then she fell to the ground, took a last breath, and died.
- The young men came into the room, picked her up, and buried her next to her husband.
- Ananias and Sapphira tried to deceive God by lying. They said they had given God's people all the money they received for selling a field, when in fact they had kept some of the money for themselves. But God knows everything and sees everything so it is impossible to trick Him. God put Ananias and Sapphira to death for lying. When the people saw it, they began to understand how much they should respect God and be truthful. God does not like it when we lie to Him or to anyone else.

Application and Group Discussion

- What did Ananias and Sapphira do? [kept some of the money from selling property]
- What happened to Ananias? [he fell to the ground and died]
- What happened to Sapphira? [she fell to the ground and died]
- Certainly, lying to God is a dangerous thing to do. Do you think that lying to anyone is a good thing to do?
- Do you think God only cares about big lies or do you think He cares about little lies, too?
- What would you think if you saw one of your friends die because they had lied to God?
- What happened to the other people in the story after Ananias and Sapphira died? [they understand how much they should respect God]

- What have you learned from this story?

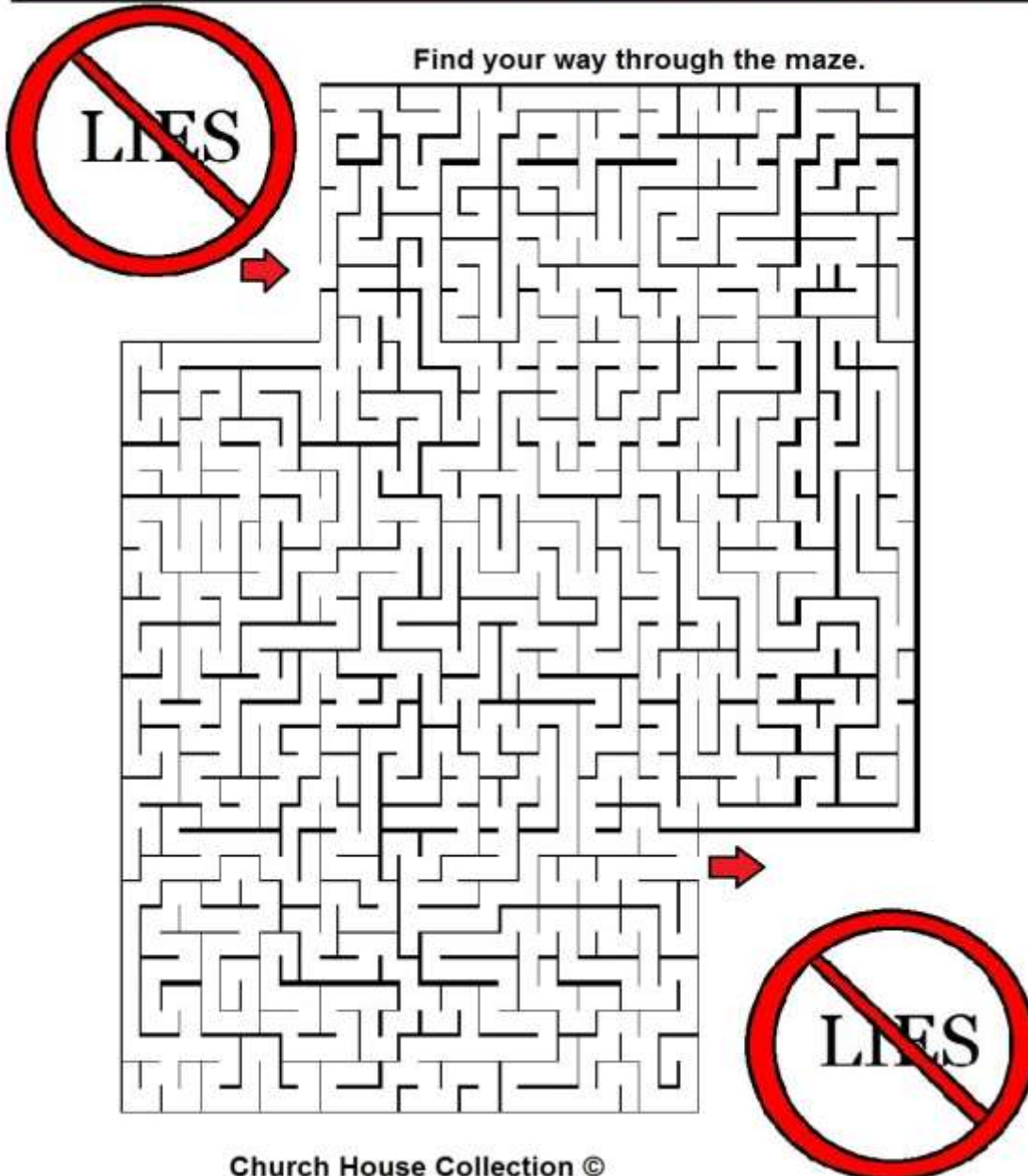
Live it out Challenge

- Have you ever told even a small lie? Have you ever said something untrue to get out of trouble or to make someone look bad? Ask God to forgive you and help you not to do it again.

Activity

Thou Shalt Not Lie Maze

Exodus 20:16 Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.



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