



Lying

Adapted from “X-Factor” series by Scott Erickson.

Lying seems to be one of the most abused past times in our country. If we are going to live an abundant life, we must know God’s absolutes on this matter. Consider the following from C.R. Hembree:

Billing consumers out of pennies has now become a billion-dollar business. The *National Observer* noted that short weighing on food, gasoline, home fuel oil, packaged hardware items, and pills cost the American public some six to twelve billion dollars per year. In an effort to curb this swindle, whether accidental or intentional, many states are spot-checking weights and measures.

Pennsylvania investigators discovered that 15.5 percent of all prepackaged foods checked were short-weighted, with some stores shorting on 25 percent of the packages checked. A three-day Kansas investigation turned up evidence that 30 percent of all meat packaged in eleven stores were short-weighted.

In Arkansas, officials checked one-pound cans of vegetables to find none that contained sixteen ounces. And Tennessee officials found prepackaged pork chops short-weighted by up to thirty-one cents. Officials have tabulated forty-eight ways to cheat in weighing meat in front of customers, and many markets are apparently using some of them.¹

¹ Paul Lee Tan, *Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations: Signs of the Times*, (Garland, TX: Bible Communications, Inc., 1996), 558–559.

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COURAGE

C1: Someone once said, “No one can lie like a man with a second-hand car to sell.”

- What is a lie to you?

- Is there ever a justification for telling a lie?

C2: Someone has suggested that lying is the most abused activity in our culture.

- Have you ever been lied to? How did it make you feel?

- Have you ever lied to someone? How did it make you feel?

C3: People everywhere, even strong people lie. Read the following and answer the questions.

Exodus 20:16 (ESV) You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

Proverbs 6:16–19 (ESV) There are six things that the LORD hates, seven that are an abomination to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that make haste to run to evil, a false witness who breathes out lies, and one who sows discord among brothers.

- From these verses, what can you glean regarding lying?

- Name some athletes who have lied. What were the consequences to these lying?

STRENGTH

S1: A little boy in Sunday School was asked, “What is a lie?” His response was, “An abomination before God and an ever-present help in the time of need.” Read and answer the questions.

John 8:44 (ESV)

Genesis 3:4–5 (ESV)

- From these scriptures, where did lying originate?
- Recall in Acts a couple who lied in church. What happened to them?
- How serious do you think God takes lying? Why?

S2: The natural force of darkness in the unregenerate person expresses itself in untruth. Read and answer the following.

1 John 1:6 (ESV)

1 John 1:8 (ESV)

1 John 1:10 (ESV)

- From these verses, how do lies operate?
- On a scale of 1-4 with 1 being very well and 4 not well, rate how well you walk in fellowship with God? Write out how can you improve?

S3: There are serious outcomes to our lying. Read the following and answer the questions.

Psalm 55:2 (ESV)

Psalm 55:21 (ESV)

James 3:8 (ESV)

Matthew 12:37 (ESV)

- From these verses, list four things that are outcomes of lying.
- What are your thoughts on how careful we should be with our words?
- On a scale from 1-4, with 1 being very well and 4 not well, rate yourself on how careful you are with your words. Write out a plan to improve what comes out of your mouth.

ENDURANCE

E1: When we think about the lying that comes out of our mouth, it manifests itself in several ways. Read and answer the following.

Leviticus 19:16 (ESV)

Psalms 101:5 (ESV)

Proverbs 18:8 (ESV)

2 Corinthians 12:20 (ESV)

- From these verses, list three things lying produces.
- Has someone ever gossiped about you? How did you feel?
- Have you ever gossiped against someone? Have you asked for forgiveness from God? From Them? If not, why?

E2: Lying is habit forming. Read and answer the following.

Exodus 20:16 (ESV)

- What does this verse mean to you?
- What should be the purpose of our words?
- On a scale of 1-4, with 1 being very well and 4 being not well, rate yourself on how purposeful the words you speak are. Write out a plan to improve the words that come out of your mouth for the next 30 days.

E3: The Holy Spirit is called the Spirit of Truth. If the Holy Spirit dwells in us, should we not love truth? Read and answer the following.

Jeremiah 17:9–10 (ESV)

Proverbs 15:7 (ESV)

Philippians 4:8 (ESV)

Ephesians 4:15 (ESV)

Ephesians 4:25 (ESV)

- From these verses, list at least three truths you should know.

- Write out a paragraph that speaks life into you, your family. Now, begin to pray and speak what you've written into their lives.