

## Student Make Up Work

### January 24 - Lesson "The 10 Commandments: Defend Truth"

Parents this make-up work should be done together with you and your student. There will be questions to discuss verbally and question to answer in written format. Please sign the bottom of the sheet and return to the sermon note drop off box.

**Main Idea: Words Matter. God wants our words to protect and preserve the truth.**

#### Parent and Youth Discuss and Write out answer

1. Have you ever heard these sayings? What do they mean? Are they true?

*Sticks and Stones can break my bones but words can never hurt me.*

*I am rubber you are glue whatever you say bounces off of me and sticks to you.*

#### Read the 8th Commandment and Luther's Meaning in your Small Catechism

Commandments 4 - 10 are about our relationships with our neighbor.

2. What does this commandment have to do with our neighbor?

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3. What do you think "bear false witness" means?

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4. Do you agree that words have power? Why?

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#### Power of God's Words

God places a high value on words. Words have power. Look at scripture and the power that only words have.

**Read the Creation Story:** Genesis Chapter 1

God created something out of nothing with just words.

**Read John 11: 1 - 44:** The Raising of Lazarus

Jesus used only words to heal, forgive, calm storms, and even raise people from the dead.

#### Discuss with Parent

5. What does God's words do for us today? Do they hold power?

6. Do our own words hold power? How?

Can our words destroy? How?

Can our words heal? How?

Words can hurt us, and our words can hurt others. If we lie on the witness stand, there are consequences, we could go to jail or someone else could go to jail unjustly. If we talk bad about a person, their reputation can be ruined. Words are powerful and can get a hold of you in many different ways. They can control us.

7. What is Gossip? Is that what we are talking about in this commandment?

**Parent and Youth Discuss and Write out answer**

**Read Luther’s meaning of this commandment again.**

There are two parts to this commandment. What we do TO others and what we do FOR others.

8. What does Luther say that we should do TO others?

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9. What do think it means to “betray or slander or destroy their reputations”?

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10. What does Luther say that we should do FOR others?

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God tells us to use words to nurture and build up life, to cherish and love, to defend and protect. Our words can be tools for Jesus.

11. How can our words be tools for Jesus?

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**Discuss with your parents**

Luther says to “Interpret everything our neighbor does in the best possible light.”

12. What does that mean for you?

13. How easy is it to do?

14. What values do you think this commandment is based on?

**Read Scripture: Ephesians 4: 25 - 5:2 and Titus 3:2**

15. What does these scriptures tell you about how we should treat one another and in keeping this commandment?

**Professional Journalist: Code of Ethics** *(Both Parent and Student do this activity)*

Read Lutheran’s Meaning of the 8th Commandment and the Professional Journalist Code of Ethics and then discuss with your parent the following questions.

**8th Commandment**

*You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor*

**Luther’s Meaning**

*We are to fear and love God, so that we do not tell lies about our neighbors, betray or slander them, or destroy their reputations. Instead we are to come to their defense, speak well of them, and interpret everything they do in the best possible light.*

## **Society of Professional Journalist: Code of Ethics**

Journalists are held to a high standard when it comes to reporting the news. Here are some of the things to consider as you perform your investigative journalist task!

### **Seek Truth and Report it:**

**Journalists should be honest, fair and courageous in gathering, reporting, and interpreting information.**

- ⇒ Test the accuracy of information from all sources and exercise care to avoid inadvertent error. Deliberate distortion is never permissible.
- ⇒ Diligently seek out subjects of news stories to give them the opportunity to respond to allegations of wrongdoing.
- ⇒ Identify sources whenever feasible. The public is entitled to as much information as possible on sources' reliability.
- ⇒ Always question sources' motives before promising anonymity.
- ⇒ Avoid stereotyping by race, gender, age, religion, ethnicity, geography, sexual orientation, disability, physical appearance, or social status.
- ⇒ Give voice to the voiceless.
- ⇒ Examine their own cultural values and avoid imposing those values on others.

### **Minimize Harm:**

**Ethical journalists treat sources, subjects and colleagues as human beings deserving of respect.**

- ⇒ Show compassion for those who may be affected adversely by news coverage.
- ⇒ Be sensitive when seeking or using interviews or photographs.
- ⇒ Recognize that gathering and reporting information may cause harm or discomfort.
- ⇒ Show good taste. Avoid pandering to curiosity.

### **Act Independently:**

**Journalists should be free of obligation to any interest other than the public's right to know.**

- ⇒ Avoid conflicts of interest. Real or perceived.
- ⇒ Refuse gifts or favors if they compromise journalistic integrity.
- ⇒ Be wary of sources offering information for money.

### **Be Accountable:**

**Journalists are accountable to their readers, listeners, viewers and each other.**

- ⇒ Admit mistakes and correct them promptly
- ⇒ Abide by the same high standards to which they hold others

### **Discuss with your parent this commandment further.**

16. How are the two similar? How are they different?
17. What do you think the Code of Ethics have to do with the 8th Commandment?
18. Do you think most journalist follow these Code of Ethics? Are advertisements an exception to these rules? Should it be?
19. How can we use Luther's Meaning and the Code of Ethics in our own lives?
20. What would our society look like if the concept of integrity and expectation of honesty didn't exist? Who could you trust? How would we relate to each other.
21. Are there times that we should tell the truth more than other times?

**Close in Prayer with one another**

**Parents Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_