

# THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

## THE EIGHTH COMMANDMENT

### DEVOTION

#### **YOU SHALL NOT GIVE FALSE TESTIMONY AGAINST YOUR NEIGHBOR. (EXODUS 20:16)**

*What does this mean?* We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way.

**Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. (Ephesians 4:29–30)**

### FOR SHARING

1. “It is always the best policy to speak the truth, unless of course you are an exceptionally good liar” (Jerome K. Jerome). In what ways does this statement reflect today’s standards and practices?
2. Why is reputation so important in business? in relationships?
3. How can lies, betrayal, slander, and gossip destroy lives?
4. In His life and through His death, Jesus was the true and faithful witness to God’s plan of salvation. He spoke the truth and demonstrated the truth at the cross. How does the Gospel change us to live in God’s truth?
5. What positive results occur when God’s forgiven and renewed people “explain everything in the kindest way”?

### PRAYER

Merciful Father, You created me to be a reflection of Your divine goodness. Yet I have fallen short of Your holy will. I humbly acknowledge my sin and ask Your forgiveness in Christ. Give me Your strength through Your Holy Spirit so that I use Your gift of speech to Your honor and the good of all people. In Jesus’ name. Amen.