

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

THE EIGHTH COMMANDMENT

READERS THEATER

Characters: Two Readers

FYI: This is trash talk.

Reader 1: What's more difficult—taking out the trash or cleaning it up? I say it's a lot more work to clean up trash.

Reader 2: So you want to do a little trash-talking, huh?

Reader 1: Sure, let's talk about trash. Of course, the easiest of all is creating trash, but who likes to do that?

Reader 2: That depends on the trash.

Reader 1: I'm talking the real ooey, gooey, yucky trash.

Reader 2: Nope. I don't like to clean that stuff up.

Reader 1: Good. Me neither. But again, which is easier—to clean up that ooey, gooey stuff or take it out?

Reader 2: Okay. Taking out the trash is easier than cleaning up trash. Now, what's your point?

Reader 1: My point is that if you ever hear someone trash-talking another person in front of your friends, what do you do?

Reader 2: Well, actually, believe it or not, I walk away. Isn't that what the Eighth Commandment teaches us?

Reader 1: Not exactly.

Reader 2: Not exactly? Of course it does! "Thou shall not trash-talk thy neighbor." Or something like that.

Reader 1: Yeah, something like that, but that's only half of it!

Reader 2: I don't break the Eighth Commandment because I don't like to talk trash about anyone.

Reader 1: Me either. But that's the easy part really. It's easy to take out the trash and walk away from it. What's harder is cleaning it up.

Reader 2: Going back to your riddle, what do you mean?

Reader 1: When was the last time you heard people trash-talking another person and remained silent? When was the last time you heard someone say something bad or not true about someone, and you just walked away from it?

Reader 2: I don't like to get involved.

Reader 1: The Eighth Commandment calls us to do just that!

Reader 2: I don't know. It's usually a sticky mess I'd rather not touch.

Reader 1: I know. Most times it's ooey, gooey trash that people love to make but no one likes to clean up. It's hard, risky work, but someone has to do it. Someone has to clean up the trash. What if it were you that someone was trash-talking?

Reader 2: I wouldn't like it.

Reader 1: No one does. Now if you knew someone was sticking up for you and defending your reputation, how would that make you feel?

Reader 2: Great!

Reader 1: Exactly! It takes more courage to stick up for someone than to remain silent.

Reader 2: What does it take to make trash?

Reader 1: That would be the opposite of courage.

DISCUSSION

How does God give us the courage to defend and speak well of other people, especially those whom others are slandering? God's Holy Spirit empowers us to speak well of and defend others as He works faith in our life through the Means of Grace—the Word and Sacraments.

Give an example of a situation when as God's forgiven child in Christ Jesus you might say something in a kind way. Answers will vary.