



elev8

life on another level

# Student Workbook

**YEAR 3**

The Ten  
Commandments  
Do not bear False Witness

**Bible Readings**

Exodus 20:1-17

Exodus 23:1-9

Deuteronomy 19

Proverbs 19



### Learning Outcomes

At the end of this week you will be able to:

- Locate the Ten Commandments.
- Express the theme of the ninth commandment in your own way.
- Apply your learning from the commandment to your own life and community using the Justice hierarchy.

### Notes from Bible Reading

**Scripture** A word or phrase that stood out to me:

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**Observation** What is happening in this Bible reading?

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**Application** Something that I learned about who I am or how I should live:

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**Prayer** What I would like to say to God, ask of God, or what I think God is saying to me:

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**Key Question** What does it mean to not bear false witness?

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### Engage

Go around the group and share one thing for each heading that has happened since you last met:

- Plus – What has been good or enjoyable?
- Minus – What has been difficult or painful?
- Interesting – What has been unusual or thought provoking?

Have you ever received an email that warned against something (e.g. virus, or some wrong thing happening) and passed it on, and then later found out it was false?

Or passed on some other urban legend/myth thinking it was true?

If you got an email or message about something like an urban legend, how would you go about checking it to see if it was true or not?

### Explore – Locate

- *What stood out to you in the Bible readings this week?*
- *What did you find meaningful or significant?*
- *Is there anything that you didn't understand or found confusing?*
- *Any questions or comments you may have?*

**Read together:** Matthew 26:57-75

Five considerations

1. How do you know if something is true or not? How do you check?

As people who believe there is truth, and the truth sets us free, we should be very deliberate and thorough about making sure we know something is true before telling others about it.

(Unfortunately Christians are often more known for being gullible and only paying attention to what supports what we believe rather than being good discerners of what is actually 'true').

2. For any witness's account to be credible, the Bible says it always needed to be backed up for 2 other people's account. To bear false witness generally involved active collaboration with others to mislead others.

### Explore – Express

3. Going with the crowd is also bearing false witness, as it often encourages people to not think well or at all.

Psychologists have terms like "groupthink," "Deindividuation," "diffused responsibility" and "conformity" to describe how being part of a group, often results in poor behaviour and decisions.

4. Bearing false witness is not just making untrue statements about some intellectual thing, but has practical consequences on the rights, reputations, property and actual life of an individual, leading to exploitation and denial of justice.

Do not take it lightly and there are serious negative consequences for such an act.

5. Whereas stealing is an action that results in the unfair loss of property or income, bearing false witness is a collaborative intention to achieve the unfair loss of property or opportunity or life of another (exploitation or denial of justice).

### Explore – Express

Read and make a play out of Matthew 26:57-75.

#### Discuss:

- What motives were behind anyone who gave a false testimony in these passages?
- What were the consequences for the people giving the false testimonies – short-term and long-term?
- What were the consequences for their false testimonies?
- Do you think you would have acted differently in a similar situation?

Some people interpret this commandment as being “Do not lie”. Discuss whether you think this is a reasonable interpretation or not?

How important is it for Christians to be known as people who are great at working out if something is true or not?

Or is it more important we are known as people that are great at believing in something even when there is little evidence for our beliefs?

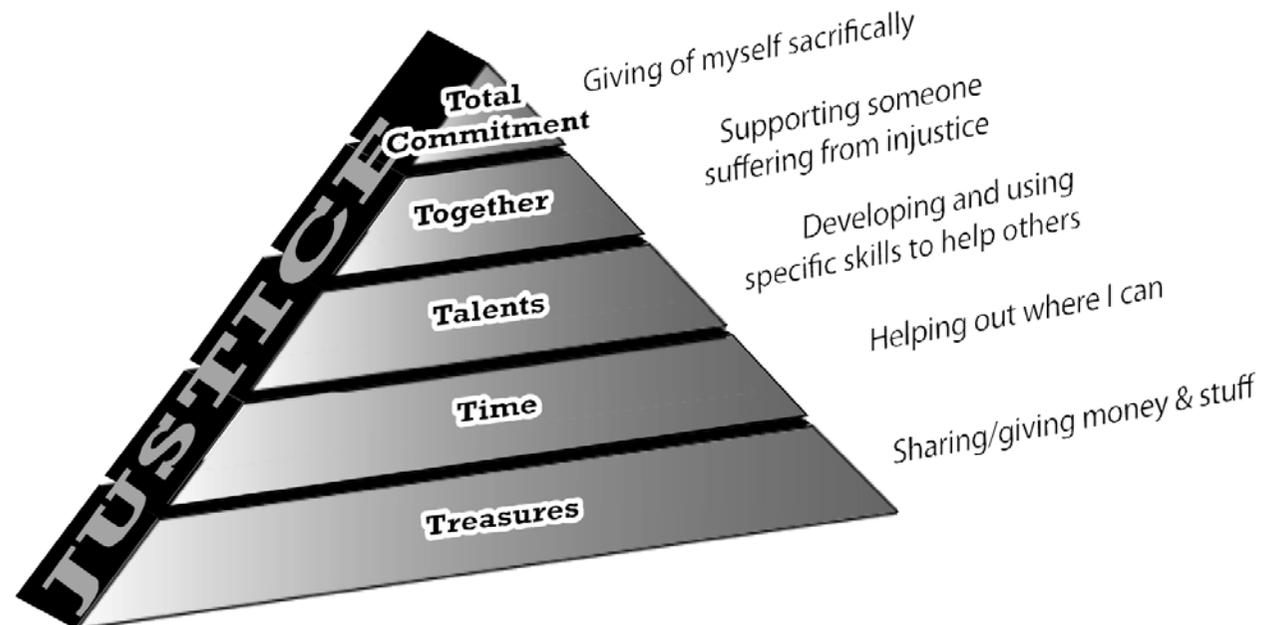
Can anyone be exploited when everyone involved can see the truth of the situation? How vital is it in many parts of the world for the truth of situations be seen by all?

### Explore – Integrate

This commandment is about not working with others with the intention of causing harm or loss to another...

- How can I spend money or use my resources to contribute to those who are victims of false witnesses (or exploitation)?
- How will I spend about 30 minutes a week to find out more about the people who are exploited or denied justice?

- What skills can I develop further or use to raise awareness of people in these circumstances?
- How can I be more directly involved with people that are affected by this issue and actually be more their voice?
- What area of my life do I need to sacrifice to help people directly involved to experience more what it is like to live in the Kingdom of God in the here and now?



### Extend

Discuss with your group the challenges you are tackling. Use the time to ask for any help you might need, or to work together on any shared projects that you have.

**Questions that may be helpful include:**

- What challenges are you working on at the moment?
- Do you need any support or assistance?
- Are there any challenges that you have completed that we need to recognise and celebrate?
- Are there any new challenges that you want to work on?

### Encourage

Tell another student in your group something you value or appreciate about them.

Share one thing you would like to pray for and pray for one another.

Pray for us to be reminded especially this week that God is God.

Give thanks for the way God views us, proud of who we are, and chosen to be able to influence other people's lives for the better.

Pray that I may see and act out God's love with one person this week that doesn't deserve it.