

PRAYER

“The mouth of the righteous man talks wisdom; his tongue says what is right. The teaching of his God is in his mind. Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will praise you (Psalm 37:30-31, Psalm 51:15). Amen.

Memory

1. “Do not lie concerning your neighbor” (Exodus 20:16).
2. “If anyone sins, we have One to plead for us with the Father – Jesus Christ, Who is righteous” (1 John 2:1).

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Emmaus Bible Lessons
Series 2: Commandments Four to Ten
Study #10 of 13: Jonathan Defends David (1 Samuel 18, 19)

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Emmaus Bible Lessons
Series 2: Commandments Four to Ten Study #10 of 13

Eighth Commandment *Jonathan Defends David*



God says to you in the eighth commandment,
“Do not lie concerning your neighbor”
(Exodus 20:16).

THIS MEANS you must always speak well of
your neighbor and defend him.

Bible Reading: 1 Samuel 18:1-16, 19:1-7

Questions and Answers For Understanding This Bible Story

1. Why did Saul try to kill David?

The LORD was with David and gave him success in whatever he did. King Saul felt jealous of David's success. Saul wanted to be more popular than David. Saul also felt afraid that David would become king instead of Saul.

2. What trouble did Saul's jealousy create for his son Jonathan?

Jonathan was Saul's son, but He was also David's friend and "loved him like himself." When Jonathan heard about Saul's plan to harm David, Jonathan felt bad. First, Jonathan loved Saul and wanted to honor his father. Second, Jonathan loved David and wanted to protect David from harm.

3. What did Jonathan do for his friend? Was this easy or difficult?

First, Jonathan told David to hide, in order to protect him. Then Jonathan spoke well of David to his father Saul. Saul listened to Jonathan and changed his mind. Saul said, "He [David] must not be killed."

Jonathan's actions were difficult and could have caused him harm. Because Jonathan acted against King Saul's wishes to have David killed, Saul could have become angry with his son Jonathan as well. However, Jonathan bravely spoke well of his neighbor, even though it might have meant punishment.

4. Can you think of a situation where it might be difficult to defend someone or speak well of him?

Perhaps you know someone at school who does not dress like everyone else does, or who seems too shy to make friends. If your friends tease such a person, you might find it hard to speak up for that person. After all, you do not want to lose your friends!

However, think about the harm you are doing to that person when you keep silent and fail to speak well about him or her. That person needed your friendship, but you did not give it. That person needed your kind words, but you did not speak them. At such times, not speaking the truth is the same as lying.

5. God says to you in His Bible, "Nobody who tells lies can stay with Me" (Psalm 101:7). However, God ALSO says to you in His Bible, "If anyone sins, we have One to plead for us with the Father – Jesus Christ, Who is righteous" (1 John 2:1).

a. According to these Words, what do we all deserve because of your sin of breaking the eighth commandment?

God warns us that, sins we commit with our words are as bad as sins we commit with our actions. These sins separate us from God. "Nobody who tells lies can stay with Me" (Psalm 101:7). It would be a terrible thing, if our sins kept us separated from God!

b. According to the Words above, who defends and speaks well of you when you sin?

Praise be to God! God promises us, "If anyone sins, we have One to plead for us with the Father—Jesus Christ, Who is righteous" (1 John 2:1). Jesus took your sin upon Himself and died on the cross for your forgiveness. Now today, Jesus defends you and speaks well of you, just as Jonathan spoke well of David. Stated another way, Jesus pleads with the Father for your sake, so that God the Father will never hold your sins against you. All your sins—even the sins you commit with words—are now washed away in Jesus' blood!