

## Speak Truth To One Another

**Opener:** What's the most ridiculous lie you've ever told or been told?

**Scripture:** You were taught to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires;<sup>23</sup> to be made new in the attitude of your minds;<sup>24</sup> and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body.<sup>26</sup> "In your anger do not sin," Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry,<sup>27</sup> and do not give the devil a foothold. Ephesians 4:22-27 (condensed)

See to it, brothers and sisters, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God.<sup>13</sup> But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called "Today," so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.<sup>14</sup> We have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original conviction firmly to the very end. Hebrews 3:12-14

Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry,<sup>20</sup> because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires.<sup>21</sup> Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you. James 1:19-21

### Discussion Questions

1. Ephesians 4:25 tells us to "put off falsehood and speak truthfully" to one another. What is falsehood and how are we supposed to put it off? Does it always involve the words we say, or can it include more than that? Examples?
2. What does it mean to speak truthfully? What doesn't it mean? How is trust affected by whether we tell the truth? We're often afraid of the consequences if we do tell the truth. What are some possible consequences if we tell the truth in those situations?
3. When are you most tempted to lie? Is lying ever justified? How does lying affect relationships as well as the body of Christ as a whole?
4. Hebrews 3:13 indicates that sin is deceitful. How does that happen and how does it harden us? If sin lies to us how does it illustrate what happens when we lie to others?
5. After telling us to put off falsehood and speak truthfully, Ephesians 4:26-27 seems to change the subject as it says, "In your anger do not sin. Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold." How are lying and anger related? (Hint: Eph. 4:22-24)
6. What does James 1:19-21 say about human anger? Is there such a thing as righteous human anger? If so, define it. Do you think God wants us to get angry about certain things or is anger part of the old self?
7. What's your impression of people who struggle with anger? How does anger affect our witness, relationships, and homes? What does Paul tell us to do about our anger in Ephesians 4:26-32? How would not dealing with it, as well as lying, give the devil a foothold in our lives?

**Wrap Up:** Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." In contrast, He describes Satan as "a liar and the father of lies." So if we want to be like Jesus and enjoy the freedom He brings, we'll join Him in telling the truth, even when it's inconvenient or uncomfortable. That doesn't mean we need to blurt out everything we know or believe to be true. It does mean this—whether we tell the truth or lie reveals who we follow. John 8:32 & 44