**Q53. Why does God give the ninth commandment: You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor?**

So we will always tell the truth and not speak evil of others.

1. How has tonight’s lesson challenged or affirmed your prior understanding of the 9th Commandment?
2. Our speech reveals who we are. Does this truth encourage you, convict you, or both?
3. Read James 3:1-12 then answer the following questions.

* What is the answer to James’ question in verse 11 and 12?
* What does that imply about the words that come out of our mouths?

1. In what ways have you struggled to control your tongue?
2. Have you ever had a time where being honest cost you?
3. Have you ever justified dishonesty because it was practical, or a common practice in society?
4. Common areas of generally accepted dishonesty in our society are taxes, insurance forms, and loan applications. Can you think of other things that our society justifies as “white lies”?
5. Do you think it’s ok to talk about people negatively when it’s true? Why or why not?
6. How would you define gossip?
7. What things should we consider before sharing someone’s faults with another person?
8. Have you ever relayed information in an incomplete way in order to deceive?
9. What are ways that we can be deceitful even when we are speaking true words?
10. Why is God’s standard of truth so high?
11. Why is an unbeliever’s understanding of truth incorrect and why are they unable to know truth?
12. How can we begin to deliberately change the focus of our conversations to be speaking the truth in love?