



TALK IT OVER

LEADER NOTES & SCRIPTURES

Leader Tips:

There isn't time to cover every question – **choose what's best for your group.**

Discuss the **mission/outreach ideas** included with this week's resources. Decide as a group whom you will serve, how, and when.

Encourage your group to keep meeting – it's just now beginning to be fun, right! Our next 4-week series will help us deal with issues like fear, anxiety, and busyness – just in time for the holidays!

The LORD detests lying lips, but he delights in those who tell the truth.
Proverbs 12:22 NLT

... He [the devil] was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.
John 8:44 NIV

Since you have heard about Jesus and have learned the truth that comes from him, throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception. Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. Put on your new nature, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy. So stop telling lies. Let us tell our neighbors the truth, for we are all parts of the same body.
Ephesians 4:21-25 NLT

Keep me from lying to myself; give me the privilege of knowing your instructions
Psalms 119:29 (NLT)

When it comes sins such as lying, we often justify our actions and dismiss our words as if they are no big deal. God doesn't dismiss the sins that our culture views as harmless or necessary. Lying is part of our fallen nature, a part that we would do well to put to death.

Start talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- What is the best piece of clothing you have had for years and can't seem to discard?
- How did your parents teach you about lying as a kid? What are some of the things they said?
- How often do you think you lie (those little supposed "harmless fabrications")?

Start thinking. Ask questions to get your group thinking.

- According to a Univ. of Mass. poll, 60% of people tell at least one lie while having a 10-minute conversation with a new acquaintance. Why do you think that statistic might be true? Has this been your experience?
- What are the typical reasons that tempt you to lie (ex. to please, impress, or get ahead of others)?
- Read Proverbs 12:22 (NLT) and John 8:44 (NIV) aloud. Why does God detest lying so much?

Start sharing. These questions can create openness.

- Read Ephesians 4:21-25 (NLT) aloud. When you accepted Christ, He gave you a new nature that seeks to do good and that He intends to displace your old nature, which is always bent towards evil. In what areas is your new nature winning that battle? (Celebrate these together!)
In what areas are you still struggling with your old nature?
- Two healthy patterns that help us "throw off" our old nature and "put on" our new nature are a daily devotional practice and regular involvement in Christian community (just like this group!). How are you doing personally in those two areas?
Are there other patterns that help you strengthen your new nature in Christ?
- Read Psalm 119:29 (NLT) aloud. On Sunday, Pastor Matt said that Satan wants us to believe lies that we tell ourselves. What lies have you been believing that you now realize are undermining your relationship with God or others?



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Whoever says, “I know him,” but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person.

1 John 2:4 NIV

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:9 NIV

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. . . .

James 5:16 NIV

Leader Tip: Remind the group(s) of **confidentiality** – what’s said in the room STAYS in the room!

Invite people to pray and even repent during this time together.

Reconvene the group after a time of prayer. Conclude the prayer time as God directs.

Here’s a suggested prayer:

God, thank You for Your grace. Thank You for forgiving us. We are broken and in daily need of You. You know all of what we try to hide and yet You love us. We confess and repent of the ways we’ve covered the truth. We trust You. We love You. Amen

Start praying. (**Note:** After reading the scriptures and questions below as a group, it may be best to split up the group into smaller, same-sex subgroups of 3-5 people to promote deeper sharing & ministry. Stress CONFIDENTIALITY regarding anything that is shared in group!) Encourage everyone to be bold and pray with power.

- Read 1 John 2:4 and 1:9 (NIV) and James 5:16 (NLT) aloud. The most miserable of existences is to not merely believe or speak lies, but to *live* a lie. Are you in any way living a lie? What do you need to get honest about? Are you willing to confess that lie to others and receive God’s forgiveness and healing as you bring this into the light?
- What are you pursuing right now that you’ve convinced yourself is okay, but that you know is not good or is at least potentially hazardous to your walk with Christ?

Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- If you weren’t quite ready to share an area of personal duplicity with the group, find the right person to open up to this week.
- Consider reaching out to someone to whom you’ve lied to make things right between you. Make certain that your confession to them isn’t going to create long-term pain for them. If it is, you may want to confess to an accountability partner, or to a pastor.
- If you catch yourself lying this week (even a tiny little fabrication), ask yourself: “Why did I feel the need to lie?”

Ask for God’s forgiveness and then go back and immediately set the record straight.

Start serving. Decide on a missional activity the group can do together.

Say something like: “Let’s decide on a way that we will be generous as a group serving people outside of our group.”

- Elicit ideas from the group about some ways the group could work together to serve someone else, meet a family’s need, etc. Use the additional attached page to spark some ideas.
- Start working on a date to carry out the mission during these first nine weeks that you’re together, if possible.