

Go Deeper . . .

Use these questions for further study individually or in a small group

You Shall Not Bear *False Witness* Against Your Neighbor. Ex 20:16

The Hebrew word “sha-qar” can be translated as: deception, falsehood, slander, or injurious lie. How would you define “false witness” “slander” or “gossip” in your own words? (also see 2Cor 12:20 & 1Tim 5:13-14)

How can withholding truth be a form of false-witness?

Have you ever been on the receiving end of slander? What was that experience like? How did it affect you? What did it cost you?

Are there steps of forgiveness and reconciliation you need to take?

Why are slander and gossip wrong? (Jm 1:26 & 4:11; Rm 1:29-32; Lv 19:16; Pr 10:18 & 11:9)

What is so destructive about slander? (Pr 16:28)

What is so seductive about slander? (Pr 18:8)

Why is slander something we need to take seriously? (Jm 1:26; Rev 21:8 & 22:15)

Identify where and how you see slander and false-witness used and even encouraged in our society? Consider where and how it shows up in places like social media, cable news, podcasts and talk radio, partisan politics, business practices, advertising, “water cooler talk,” social gatherings, church groups, and more.

Read Eph 4:29. How does this verse provide a corrective to slander? What would it practically look like for you to live into both Ex 20:16 And Eph 4:29 together?

How can we as Christians take practical steps to actively opt-out of slander?

Prayerfully invite the Spirit to examine your heart and life. Humbly consider if there is any way in which you are guilty of bearing false witness or slandering (be it directly or indirectly).

What steps do you need to take to repent and make this right?

Learn More:

If you are unfamiliar with the story of Moses, the Exodus, and Mt Sinai you can check out these two short videos at the Bible Project (bibleproject.com/explore/video/exodus-1-18 bibleproject.com/explore/video/exodus-19-40). You could also have a family movie night and watch *The Prince of Egypt*.

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