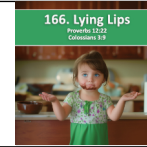


Speech/Honesty — Day 1



166. Lying Lips
Proverbs 12:22
Colossians 3:9

🎵 Listen to
Scripture Song:



Today's Promise (#166) — KJV

Proverbs 12:22 "Lying lips are abomination to the Lord: but they that deal truly are his delight."

Colossians 3:9 "Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;"

💖 Apply the Promise!

God loves the absolute truth! When we choose to be honest, it brings Him great delight. But when we tell lies or try to trick people, we destroy trust and cause terrible pain for ourselves and others.

📖 Bible Story (Genesis 27)

Isaac was old, and his eyes had become so weak that he could not see clearly. One day, he called his older son Esau and asked him to go hunting. Isaac wanted Esau to prepare a special meal, and then he planned to give him the blessing.

Rebekah, Isaac's wife, heard what Isaac said. She wanted the blessing to go to Jacob, her younger son, instead of Esau. So Rebekah made a plan for Jacob to pretend he was his brother.

Jacob knew this was wrong. He worried that his father might touch him and discover the lie. But instead of refusing to deceive his father, Jacob followed the plan.

Rebekah dressed Jacob in Esau's clothes and covered his hands and neck with goat skins so he would feel hairy like Esau. Then Jacob carried the food to his blind father.

Isaac asked, "Who are you, my son?" Jacob answered, "I am Esau." That one lie was not enough. Isaac became unsure and asked more questions, and Jacob had to keep lying to cover the first lie.

Isaac finally believed him. Then he gave Jacob the blessing. But the blessing was gained through dishonesty, and the results brought sorrow.

Esau became angry, Rebekah and Jacob were separated, and Jacob had to leave home. What looked like a quick way to get something good brought years of pain instead. Jacob's story shows that dishonesty does not stay small. One lie often leads to another, and then another. Truthfulness means speaking honestly, even when we are afraid, and trusting God enough to do what is right.

☀️ True Story

In January 2000, hundreds of college students lived in a large dorm building at a school in New Jersey. During that school year, some pranksters made a very foolish choice.

They secretly pulled the fire alarm eighteen different times when there was no emergency. Pulling a fire alarm is exactly like shouting out a loud, dangerous lie.

It tells everyone there is danger when there is not. Because the pranksters lied with the alarm so many times, the students stopped believing the serious warnings.

When the loud bells would ring in the middle of the night, the students always assumed it was just another trick. They simply stayed in their warm beds.

But one morning, a real fire suddenly started in a downstairs lounge. The loud alarms immediately began to ring through the long hallways to clearly warn the sleeping students.

This time, the danger was real. Smoke and fire spread quickly, and many students were hurt. Three students died.

The false alarms did not cause the fire, but they had helped weaken trust in the warning. That is one reason dishonesty is so dangerous. When people hear lies again and again, they may stop believing even when the truth is being told.

This story helps us see why God wants our words to be honest. Lies may seem like a joke, a prank, or a quick way out of trouble, but they can damage trust. Truthful words help people know they can listen to us, believe us, and trust what we say.

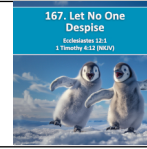
💬 Discussion Questions:

- What terrible lie did Jacob tell when Isaac asked, "Who are you?"
- Why didn't the college students leave their beds when the real fire alarm finally went off?
- Colossians 3 says, "Lie not one to another." Why is it so hard to trust someone after they have lied to you?

🎭 Activity:

Set up a small obstacle course using pillows or chairs. Blindfold one child and have a parent or sibling guide them through it using only their voice. Tell the guide to deliberately give one "lie" (e.g., "Take two big steps forward!" when there is a pillow right in front of them). When the blindfolded child bumps into the pillow, stop the game. Discuss how a single lie immediately makes you afraid to trust the guide's voice anymore!

Speech/Honesty — Day 2



Listen to
Scripture Song:



Today's Promise (#167) — NKJV

Ecclesiastes 12:1 "Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, Before the difficult days come, And the years draw near when you say, 'I have no pleasure in them!'" **1 Timothy 4:12** "Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity."

♥ Apply the Promise!

When you choose to speak the truth and live honestly while you are still young, God will use your words to be a shining, beautiful example to the entire world.

Bible Story (Joshua 9)

Joshua was leading the people of Israel when a group of strangers came into the camp. They wore dusty, torn clothes and shoes with holes. They showed Joshua bags of dry, crumbly bread.

The men told a big lie. They said they had traveled from a country very far away. They asked Joshua to make a special promise to be their friends and never hurt them.

Joshua did not stop to ask God what to do. He looked at their worn-out shoes and believed their story. He gave them his word. He made a strict, serious promise to keep them safe.

Three days later, Joshua found out the truth! The men were from a town called Gibeon, which was right next door. They had completely tricked him.

The people of Israel were very angry. They wanted to break the promise. They told Joshua to go back on his word and punish the men for lying.

But Joshua knew that a promise made before God was not something to break. Even though the Gibeonites had lied, Joshua and the leaders had given their word. He stood in front of the angry crowd and said no. He explained that because they had made a promise before God, they could not break it.

Joshua kept the promise. He did not go back on his word just because it became difficult.

His choice teaches us that honest words matter. When we make a promise, God wants us to mean what we say and keep our word.

True Story

In 2021, an eighteen-year-old boy named Emmanuel Tuloe lived in Liberia. His family was very poor. To help them survive, he had dropped out of school to work long hours in the hot sun just to make a few dollars a day.

One afternoon, while driving his motorcycle taxi down the highway, Emmanuel saw a plastic bag wrapped in paper lying in the dirt. He stopped, picked it up, and looked inside. He was shocked! The bag was stuffed with fifty thousand dollars in crisp cash! For a poor teenager, this was an unimaginable fortune. It was enough money to completely change his life.

When his friends saw the money, they begged him to keep his mouth shut. They told him to just lie, keep the secret, and pretend he had never seen it. But Emmanuel had an honest heart. Later that day, he heard a desperate woman crying on the radio, begging for someone to truthfully return the money she had lost.

Emmanuel ignored his friends' pressure to lie. He chose to be an example in his word! He went to the police, admitted he had the bag, and returned every single penny to the grateful owner.

When the President of Liberia heard about this young man's honest speech, he invited Emmanuel to the presidential mansion, gave him a large financial reward, and provided a full scholarship so he could finally go to college! Doing right may not always be easy, and other people may not understand. But when we speak truthfully, keep our word, and return what does not belong to us, we show that a good name is worth more than riches.

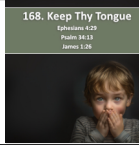
Discussion Questions:

- What did the men from Gibeon do to trick Joshua into making a promise?
- What did Emmanuel Tuloe find lying in the dirt while driving his motorcycle taxi?
- What did Emmanuel's friends tell him to do, and what honest choice did he make instead?

Activity:

Give children blocks and two cards labeled "Truth" and "Trick." Read situations aloud and have them raise the correct card. If the action is honest, add a block to the tower. If it is a trick, remove one! Use examples like hiding a mess under the bed, asking adults to return found money, breaking hard promises, or bravely telling the truth. Discuss how Joshua kept his word and Emmanuel returned the cash. Show honesty builds trust, but dishonesty breaks it down.

Speech/Honesty — Day 3



 Listen to
Scripture Song:



Today's Promise (#168) — KJV

Ephesians 4:29 "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers." **Psalm 34:13** "Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile." **James 1:26** "If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain."

Apply the Promise!

Ask God to help you control your words. Choose to speak truth and kindness, not harm. When you let Him guide your speech, your words will bless others and show a heart that truly follows Him.

Bible Story (1 Kings 12)

When King Solomon died, his son Rehoboam became the new king of Israel. The people came to him with a serious request. Under Solomon, they had carried heavy taxes and hard work. They asked Rehoboam to lighten their burden, and they promised to serve him faithfully.

Rehoboam first asked the older counselors what he should say. They gave him wise advice. They told him that if he spoke kindly to the people and served them, the people would gladly serve him in return.

But Rehoboam rejected their counsel. Instead, he listened to young men who encouraged him to speak proudly and harshly. They made cruel words sound strong and impressive, but their advice was foolish.

When the people came back for his answer, Rehoboam did not use gentle words. He threatened to make their burden even heavier than before. His speech was proud, sharp, and unkind. Instead of using his words to heal the trouble, he used them to make the people feel smaller and more afraid.

Those harsh words brought terrible results. Ten of the twelve tribes rebelled, and the kingdom was divided. Rehoboam lost most of the nation in a single day.

Rehoboam's choice shows how powerful our words can be. A gentle answer can bring peace, but proud and angry speech can break trust, hurt relationships, and cause lasting trouble. God wants our words to be truthful, kind, and helpful—not careless, harsh, or proud.

True Story

In 1983, a thirteen-year-old boy named Andrew Flosdorf competed in the National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C. During the competition, he was given the word echolalia.

Millions of people were watching the competition on television. The ultimate winner would receive an incredible trophy and a cash prize. During a final round, the judges gave Andrew a difficult word.

He had to spell the word echolalia. Andrew stepped up to the microphone and carefully spelled it out loud. The chief judge smiled and told him he had spelled it perfectly!

Andrew was totally thrilled. He proudly walked back to his seat to advance to the next round. But a few minutes later, Andrew started thinking about his letters.

He realized with a sinking feeling that he had substituted the wrong letter. He had misspelled the word, but the judges simply had not heard him correctly!

It would have been very easy to keep his mouth shut and try to win the national championship. Instead, Andrew walked right up to the strict judges and told the absolute truth.

He confessed his mistake, knowing it would eliminate him. When people asked why he had spoken up, Andrew said he did not want to feel like "slime." He knew that winning would not feel right if it was built on a lie. Andrew's choice gives us a clear picture of honest speech. Truthfulness means speaking up when silence would deceive someone. A clean conscience are worth more than winning a prize.

Discussion Questions:

- What happened to Rehoboam's kingdom because he refused to bridle his tongue?
- What did thirteen-year-old Andrew Flosdorf bravely do when he realized he had misspelled his word?
- Ephesians 4 says to only use speech that is "edifying" (building people up). Give an example of a corrupt sentence that tears someone down, and an edifying sentence that builds someone up!

Activity:

Have children stand in a circle. Holding the end of a yarn ball, tell a silly lie, like, "I own a dinosaur!" Toss the yarn across the circle while keeping your piece. Have that child tell a lie and toss it. Repeat until a messy web forms. Ask someone to walk through it. It is impossible! Explain that both lies and cruel words create messy traps. Choose edifying, honest words!

Speech/Honesty — Day 4



🎵 Listen to
Scripture Song:



Today's Promise (#169) — KJV

Ephesians 5:2–4 "And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour. But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks."

💖 Apply the Promise!

Instead of using our mouths to tell dirty jokes, use foul language, or speak foolishly, we should use our speech to be thankful and show people the beautiful love of Jesus.

📖 Bible Story (Matthew 5)

When Jesus preached the Sermon on the Mount, He sat down on a hillside and taught the people. During this sermon, Jesus talked about our speech and honesty.

In those days, the religious leaders had invented a system of lying. They believed that if you made a promise and swore by the name of God, you had to keep it.

But if you only swore by the earth or your head, it was fine to break your promise and lie! It was a terrible system of foolish talking and deception.

Jesus removed all those excuses. He taught that God hears every word we speak. Even if no one else knows what we really mean, God understands the heart behind our words. We cannot hide a dishonest heart behind clever wording, technical promises, or half-truths.

Jesus told the people not to use big oaths to make their words sound more believable. Instead, He said their "yes" should mean yes, and their "no" should mean no.

In other words, God wants our everyday speech to be simple, clear, and honest. A truthful person should not need extra promises, dramatic words, or tricky explanations to be believed. Our words should be so trustworthy that people know we mean exactly what we say.

Honesty begins in the heart. We should not twist our words to get what we want or make excuses for lying. When we belong to Jesus, our speech should be clean, truthful, and trustworthy.

☀️ True Story

During the American Civil War, Ulysses S. Grant was a famous general. Because military camps were filled with rough soldiers, it was common to hear men telling dirty jokes.

But General Grant was different. Even though he commanded thousands of men, he hated foolish talking. He refused to use bad words and expected the men to keep their speech pure.

One evening, General Grant was sitting around a campfire with several of his officers. A soldier rode up to the camp, hopped off his horse, and joined the circle.

The man had a habit of telling inappropriate jokes. He looked around the campfire to see who was listening. Smiling a sneaky smile, he loudly announced a foolish thought.

He said that since there were no ladies present, he could tell his dirty joke. General Grant instantly sat up straight and stared the man right in the eyes.

In a firm voice, Grant interrupted him and said, "No, but there are gentlemen present." The man's face turned red. He was embarrassed and quickly closed his mouth.

Grant's words were short, but they were firm. He did not laugh along just to fit in, and he did not stay silent when he knew the speech was wrong. His example shows that clean speech sometimes requires courage. We may not be able to control what everyone else says, but we can choose what we listen to, what we laugh at, and what we allow around us. God wants our words to be pure, respectful, and helpful, not foolish, dirty, or careless.

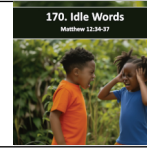
💬 Discussion Questions:

- Why did Jesus say we shouldn't need to swear a giant oath to prove we are telling the truth?
- What did General Grant firmly say when the soldier tried to tell a dirty joke around the campfire?
- Jesus said our communication should simply be "Yea, yea" or what?

🎬 Activity:

Give the children a cup of clean water and a spoonful of dirt (representing "foolish talking"). Let them stir the dirt in, making it gross. Then, place a coffee filter over an empty cup and pour the dirty water through it. Discuss how Ephesians 5 commands us to put a strict "filter" on our mouths and ears! We must carefully catch and stop filthy words and jokes before they enter our minds or come out of our lips!

Speech/Honesty — Day 5



 Listen to
Scripture Song:



Today's Promise (#170) — KJV

Matthew 12:34–37 "...out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things. But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned."

Apply the Promise!

Our words are like a mirror showing exactly what is inside our hearts! We must be very careful to fill our hearts with God's goodness so that only kind, loving words come out of our mouths.

Bible Story (2 Kings 2)

Elisha had just been chosen to carry on Elijah's work as a prophet of God. Elijah had been taken to heaven, and now Elisha was traveling toward Bethel, a city where many people had turned away from the Lord.

As Elisha walked along the road, a large group of youths came out of the city and began to mock him. They shouted, "Go up, you bald head!" They were making fun of his appearance, but their words meant more than that. They were also showing disrespect for God's prophet.

Their speech was cruel, proud, and rebellious. They were not using words to encourage, help, or speak truth. They were using their mouths to shame and mock someone God had called. What may have sounded like a joke to them was really a serious sin in God's sight.

Elisha turned and spoke a solemn judgment in the name of the Lord. Then two bears came out of the woods and attacked forty-two of the youths. God was showing that mocking, rebellious words are not harmless just because many people are saying them together.

This is a serious story, and it shows that God cares about our words. Mocking speech is not harmless just because people laugh. Our words show what is happening in our hearts.

Elisha's story teaches us to guard our tongues. We should not use our words to make fun of someone's body, age, weakness, or appearance. God wants our speech to be respectful, truthful, and kind—not mocking, cruel, or careless.

True Story

In 1842, before Abraham Lincoln became president, he was a young lawyer in Springfield, Illinois. A politician named James Shields had made an unpopular decision about money and taxes, and many people were upset with him.

Lincoln decided to write a mocking newspaper letter about Shields. Instead of signing his own name, he wrote under the false name "Rebecca." The letter made fun of Shields so sharply that people in town laughed and talked about it.

But James Shields did not laugh. He felt deeply insulted. When he found out Lincoln had written the letter, he demanded an apology. The trouble grew so serious that Shields challenged Lincoln to a duel.

In those days, a duel was a dangerous fight between two men. Lincoln did not want to be shot, so he chose large swords as the weapons. Because Lincoln was very tall, the swords would give him an advantage over Shields.

The men prepared to meet, and the joke suddenly became a matter of life and death. What had started as mocking words in a newspaper almost turned into bloodshed.

Thankfully, friends stepped in and helped stop the duel before anyone was hurt. Lincoln did not forget the lesson. Sharp words may feel clever for a moment, but they can wound deeply and lead to serious trouble.

Lincoln's experience teaches us to be careful with teasing, sarcasm, and mocking. God does not want our words to embarrass or injure others. He wants us to use speech that is truthful, thoughtful, and kind.

Discussion Questions:

- What terrifying thing happened to the gang from Bethel to prove that God takes our "idle words" very seriously?
- What did James Shields challenge Abraham Lincoln to do after reading the mocking letter?
- Matthew 12 says that we will give an account for our idle words. How can a "funny joke" or teasing end up causing real harm to others?

Activity:

Bring two sponges and two bowls to the table. Fill one bowl with clean water and the other with muddy water. Let one sponge soak in the clean bowl, and the other in the mud. Squeeze the clean sponge into an empty cup. Clean water comes out! Squeeze the muddy sponge. Dirty water comes out! Explain that our hearts are exactly like sponges. Whatever we soak our hearts in will squeeze out of our mouths!