

Name: _____

Abiding Savior Free Lutheran Church Confirmation

The Eighth Commandment

After completing the lesson, the student will:

- Know what the 8th Commandment is.
- Know what the 8th Commandment means for our lives.
- Be able to describe ways in which we positively keep this command.
- Be able to describe ways this commandment is broken.
- Know what the terms slander, defame, hypocrisy, charitable, and flattery mean.
- Know the source of lying and deceit in the world today.
- Be able to describe ways we can protect ourselves and others for gossip.

THE EIGHTH COMMANDMENT

1. Use your catechism to write in the following information about the Eighth Commandment. Please copy it word for word below.

What is the Eighth Commandment?

What does this mean?

In this Commandment God protects our name and our neighbor's name and reputation. This is important, for *we are by our nature inclined to give a false witness*. Again, notice both the positive and negative sides of how one applies this commandment - it speaks of what we are both to say, and what we are not to say. At the heart of the commandment is God's will that we at all times are truthful. In absence of the protection of this commandment, confusion would reign because no one could depend upon or trust anything they would hear. An important part of loving God and loving our neighbors consists of always speaking the truth.

2. Using a dictionary, look up each of the following terms and write out a short definition. This will help in your understanding of the meaning of this commandment.

Lie—

Betray—

Slander—

Defame—

Apologize—

Hypocrisy—

Flattery—

Deceit—

Gossip—

3. We can bear false witness in several ways. As you look at the following passages, describe what it means to bear false witness and when does this occur in the following passages.

1 Kings 21:8-13

Matthew 26:59-62

Luke 23:1-2

This commandment also prohibits us to lie or withhold the truth. A lie is a conscious falsehood that is given in hopes of deceiving another. We must also not withhold from our neighbor the truth when he has a right to know it. Another item here is the sin of hypocrisy and flattery which is also a form of lying. With hypocrisy and flattery, we say things we really do not mean in order to gain some advantage or benefit. In both of these cases, the truth is not being spoken, so it is wrong.

4. What does the Bible say about untruths or part truths? Read the following passages as you answer.

Exodus 23:1

Psalms 5:6

Proverbs 19:5

Ephesians 4:25

5. God would also forbid us to betray our neighbor. We betray our neighbor when we reveal his secrets to others. We are not to betray this confidence for it may ruin his reputation or do him other harm. Summarize what happened in the following example from Scripture. Matthew 26:14-16, 47-48

6. Is there a time when we should rightly reveal our neighbor's secrets? Read the following Bible passages as you prepare an answer.

Genesis 37:1-2

Acts 23:12-16

There are cases when we must reveal secrets, as when parents, teachers, or other authorities demand information in order to correct an evil, or to protect someone from harm. We need to always be truthful

with our neighbor, and not share falsehood or exaggeration, but if we know of a truth that could be to his or her harm, we need to share it with someone in authority.

Backbiting is another way in that this commandment is broken. To backbite is to talk behind your neighbor's back or to criticize a person with the intent to harm their reputation. One of the greatest dangers in backbiting is that it destroys the unity of any group. When we slander, we spread evil reports or invent or repeat rumors about others. Gossip would be included here, and is most likely one thing most of us struggle greatly with. What is it to gossip? A good definition is "sharing private information with someone else who is not part of the problem or part of the solution." Is anyone guilty in this area?

7. List two ways we can protect ourselves from gossip.

8. Read Psalm 50:16-22. These verses are written unto the wicked person, the person who is ignoring God. What do they say about speech? What about consequences?

A good rule to follow is that you should never share something about another person that you would not also share to their face. Do not say behind one's back that which you are not willing to share to his face. Likewise, even if we know of a sin or shortcoming, we are not to broadcast it to others, but go to him and tell it to him alone.

9. Read Matthew 18:15-17. What is the first step in righting a wrong or in confronting sin? God would also forbid us to plot or to have evil thoughts against our neighbor. As always, it is not only with our hands and feet that we sin, but also within our minds.

10. Read the following passages. What does God disapprove of in these verses?

Zechariah 8:17

Proverbs 6:16-19

11. What is the source of lying and deceit in the world today? Read the following passages as to this source's identity and characteristics.

John 8:44;

2 Corinthians 11:3;

Revelation 19:20;

12. What does God require of us in this commandment? Read the following passages as you answer.

Proverbs 31:8-9;

Ephesians 4:15;

1 Peter 4:8;

STUDENT & PARENT QUESTIONS: *for the student and a parent to discuss and answer together*

1. Review the list of words and their definitions in question #2. Which 2 or 3 of these do each of you struggle with?

STUDENT & PARENT SIGNATURE:

By signing below, we affirm (1) this lesson is complete and that (2) we completed the "Student & Parent Questions" section together

Parent Signature: _____

Student Signature: _____