

## **Introduction: God's boundary for truth, justice, and trust**

### **Then...**

- Israel's court system

*You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.* Exodus 20:16 (NIV)

- Israel's code of conduct

*Do not steal. Do not lie. Do not deceive one another.*  
Leviticus 19:11 (NASB)

### **...and now**

- Integrity in everything

*Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are all members of one body.*

Ephesians 4:25 (NIV)

## **1. Examining the problem: Why do we lie?**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. Pondering the consequences: What lying does to relationships

- It destroys our relationship with \_\_\_\_\_.

*The Lord is near to all who call on Him, to all who call on Him in truth.*

Psalm 145:18 (NIV)

See also: Psalm 51:5, John 4:24, John 14:16

- It destroys our relationship with \_\_\_\_\_.

*The man of integrity walks securely, but he who takes crooked paths will be found out.*

Proverbs 10:9 (NIV)

See also: Acts 5, Joshua 7

- It destroys our relationship with \_\_\_\_\_.

*Like a muddied spring or a polluted well is a righteous man who gives way to the wicked.*

Proverbs 25:26 (NIV)

See also: Proverbs 18:8

## 3. Winning the war: How to stop lying!

**Conclusion: Four airtight truths you can't afford to be deceived on**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

**Discussion Questions:**

1. What was the original intent of the 9<sup>th</sup> Command? Why was obedience to this command essential for social justice?
2. Why is "telling" and "living" the truth so important? What impact do duplicity and deception have in our lives and relationships?
3. In what ways and for what reasons do you find yourself speaking and/or living in less than full integrity?
4. What practical suggestions do you think will most help you in "declaring war on deceit" in your life? Why? When and how will you start to put this into practice?