



Word Count – Week 2

Lying - Discussion & Reflection Guide

Questions and Prompts:

- **What stood out to you from Sunday's service?** How did you sense God at work in you through the songs, taking Communion, the message and witnessing baptisms? (The message's main points and scripture are listed below if it helps you think back.)
- Eddie asked, "Are you a loophole seeker or a word keeper?" **Pause and do a quick self-check. How would you honestly answer this?**
- **Read Matthew 5:33-37.** Have someone read it out loud if you're in a group. This is from Jesus' sermon on the mount—one of his most famous teachings.
 - Is there a verse or phrase that stands out to you?
 - **Do you sense Jesus saying anything to you?**
- In the message, Eddie listed several sneaky forms of dishonesty:
 - "little white lies"
 - Exaggerations
 - Omissions
 - Excuses
 - Flattery

Which of these do you identify with or struggle with? What would pursuing truth in your words look like in these examples?

- The message closed with two commitments to make:
 - Make it an obsession to know, live and speak the truth.
 - I will be more discerning about the voices I hear.

Write down some specific ways you can live out these commitments this week.

- **Is there anything else from the message you want to explore more deeply this week?**

We hope you'll use this guide to take the teaching from Sunday's service and reflect on it with a few friends or with a group. If you have questions or want to talk more about how to take your next spiritual step, contact us at info@wschurch.org.

Message Main Points & Scripture:

- **We can't build a healthy society, church, family, or friendship on deceit.**

- John 8:31 - "You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings. And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."
- John 18:27 - "Actually, I was born and came into the world to testify to the truth. All who love the truth recognize that what I say is true."
- **Jesus claimed that he and his teachings are the purest form of truth.**
- Matthew 5:33 - "You have heard that our ancestors were told, 'You must not break your vows; you must carry out the vows you make to the LORD.' But I say, do not make any vows! Do not say, 'By heaven!' because heaven is God's throne. And do not say, 'By the earth!' because the earth is his footstool. And do not say, 'By Jerusalem!' for Jerusalem is the city of the great King. Do not even say, 'By my head!' for you can't turn one hair white or black. Just say a simple, 'Yes, I will,' or 'No, I won't.' Anything beyond this is from the evil one."
- **Are you a loophole seeker or a word keeper?**
- **"little white lies"**
- **Exaggerations**
- **Omissions**
- **Excuses**
- **Flattery**
- Proverbs 29:5 - "To flatter friends is to lay a trap for their feet."
- **God dislikes every type of lie because they all tarnish our character and dishonor him.**
- **self-deception**
- **most lies are not a form of malice - they are a form of selfishness or convenience**
- **make it an obsession to know, live and speak the truth**
- Proverbs 12:22 - "The Lord detests lying lips, but he delights in those who tell the truth."
- **I will be more discerning about the voices I hear.**
- John 17:17 - "Make them holy by your truth; teach them your word, which is truth."
- Matthew 17:5 - "This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy. Listen to him."