



CHILDREN BROCHURE

MORAVIAN CHURCH – BARBADOS CONFERENCE
Provincial Theme: Advance the Kingdom: S.H.I.F.T.

S. – Seek & Submit
H. – Hear & Heed
I. – Imagine & Insight
F. – Focus & Function
T. – Totally Transformed

Age: 13 yrs. & Over

FUNCTION

November 29 – Thou shall not bear false witness

Scripture:

Sing along with me:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MZ8N5s92zJA>

<p>1 Out in the highways and byways of life, Many are weary and sad; Carry the sunshine where darkness is rife, Making the sorrowing glad.</p> <p>Chorus. <i>Make me a blessing, make me a blessing, Out of my life may Jesus shine; Make me a blessing, O Savior, I pray, Make me a blessing to someone today.</i></p>	<p>2 Tell the sweet story of Christ and His love, Tell of His pow'r to forgive; Others will trust Him if only you prove True, every moment you live.</p> <p>3 Give as 'twas given to you in your need, Love as the Master loved you; Be to the helpless a helper indeed, Unto your mission be true.</p>
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Memory verse:

Do not bear false witness. Exodus 20:16 NIRV

For today, I have chosen a set of verses about the consequences of lying. Let us read them together.

Deuteronomy 19:18-19 NIRV

18 The judges must check out the matter carefully. And suppose the witness is proved to be lying. Then he has said something false in court against another Israelite. 19 So do to the lying witness what he tried to do to the other person. Get rid of that evil witness.

Exodus 23:1 NIRV

Do not spread reports that are false. Do not help a guilty person by telling lies in court.

Proverbs 19:5 NIRV

A dishonest witness will be punished. And whoever pours out lies will not go free.

Psalms 31:18 NIRV

Their lips tell lies. Let them be silenced. They speak with pride against those who do right. They make fun of them.

Isaiah 63: 8 NIRV

In the past he said, "They are my people. They are children who will be faithful to me." So he saved them.

Proverbs 19: 22 NIRV

Everyone longs for love that never fails. It is better to be poor than to be a liar.

Proverbs 6: 16 – 19 NIRV

16 There are six things the Lord hates. In fact, he hates seven things. 17 The Lord hates proud eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that kill those who aren't guilty. 18 He also hates hearts that make evil plans and feet that are quick to do evil. 19 He hates any witness who pours out lies and anyone who stirs up conflict in the community.

Message:

Let us talk about it

"Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour" means we should not tell lies about anyone, nor should we believe any lies we may hear about others. Remember that our neighbour is not just someone who lives nearby, but is any one of God's children, including yourself.

In many courtrooms around the world, witnesses in trials are required to swear under oath to tell the truth. With the right hand raised, and the left hand resting on the Bible, the marshal or the



court clerk will ask the witness - "Do you solemnly swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth so help you God?" The witness will reply, "I do, so help me God." If it is discovered that a witness has committed perjury, that is: the witness did not tell the truth, he or she may be punished with a fine or even jail time. This crime of bearing false witness under oath, considered to be a serious crime in today's courtrooms, was also considered to be so serious to the early Israelites that anyone caught lying about another under judgment would be given the same punishment normally given to one actually guilty of that particular crime. We read this in Deuteronomy 19. Let us read it again: Deuteronomy 19:18-19 NIRV

18 The judges must check out the matter carefully. And suppose the witness is proved to be lying. Then he has said something false in court against another Israelite. 19 So do to the lying witness what he tried to do to the other person. Get rid of that evil witness.

Jesus also addressed this issue of lying. In Matthew, chapters 5 to 7, we read in the Sermon on the Mount what Jesus thought about hypocritical behaviour. Have you ever heard of someone being called a hypocrite? Hypocrisy is a form of lying and being a false witness. Jesus stressed that we should limit what we say to be the truthful at all time.

To lie is to deliberately make a false statement. People sometimes lie to avoid responsibility or punishment or even to make themselves look good. Sometimes we lie just to get our friends into trouble. However, lying makes the situation worse. Lies damage our own good name, and they usually hurt other people as well. Lies make us lose respect for ourselves. If we lie, we need to admit that we have lied. Then we need to tell the truth. We also must try to make up for any harm our lies may have caused. Another way to show respect for the truth is to avoid gossip and rumours.

When people gossip, they often spread untruths about other people. Gossip leads to rumours. A rumour is information that we hear but we do not know if it is true. Spreading rumours can hurt a person's reputation and harm his or her good name. If we promise to keep a secret, we give our word to another person. That person trusts us. If we break the promise and tell the secret, we have gone back on our word. We have broken the person's trust.

One of the things that we must consider about being a false witness is what it can do to us. In today's environment, social media is ever present. We love to post everything on social media. Sometimes, it is not just what we do, but what we say that others have done. When you post stories about others, did you check that the story was true? Lying about a person, whether it is speech – slander, or in writing – libel, in such a way that you damage a person's reputation or character could put you in serious trouble.

When Jesus said "love your neighbour as yourself, He was simply asking we do to others as we would want them to do to us, Will you like your friend to spread dirty rumours about you? Yes! I did not think so. Good, so it means that you will not do it. We should fear and love God, so that we do not lie about, betray or slander our friends, but excuse them, speak well of them, and put the best construction on everything. Let us not say bad things about others, for in so doing, you will not be honouring the commandment which says, 'Do not bear false witness.'

Let us pray:

O God, we thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus Christ to save us from our sins. Dear God, as we pray that You will make us a blessing, we also pray You will make us to be a vessel of Your peace in truth, in word and in deed. May all we say be said to Your honour and to Your glory, and as we talk about and with our friends, may we be truthful, and also realize that not all truth needs to be told. This we ask in Jesus' name. Amen



Activity: Enjoy as you take yourself through the maze.

Thou Shalt Not Lie Maze

Exodus 20:16 Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.



Find your way through the maze.

