

The Law of Speech

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



THE EIGHTH COMMANDMENT



1. When and how did it become okay to lie about everything? How did we get to a time and place in which lying is understood to be a necessary? When and how did we pass along the idea to our children, that in business, in career and in relationship, lying is okay in order to get ahead or get what you want?
2. Stealing can be reversed if the item stolen is returned. What about lying? How can we give truth back to someone from whom we have stolen it? Let's assume none of us will ever be punished for our lies, what does lying do for us? Where will it take us? How has your own life been impacted by lying, whether you were lied to or you did the lying? How did it turn out?
3. Without lying, it has been said, there would be no good stories. This session also acknowledges that not all lies compromise our world, our relationships, or ourselves. Do you agree? Why or why not? And, where do you draw the line between those lies that may be considered acceptable and those lies that are not?
4. The Eighth Commandment is one in which nearly everyone is both perpetrator and victim. Why is that? Why do we fail to learn from the hurt we experience as a result of lying and then revisit it upon others? What do you think would happen if you simply, even kindly, always told the truth?
5. If, in fact, Sr. Joan is correct in saying that lying harms relationships, who do you still lie to? Your wife, your husband, your partner? Your friends? The stranger? God? Yourself? What do you want to do about it today?