

# SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

## THE OBLIGATION TO BE TRUTHFUL

International Sunday School Lesson  
For June 15th, 1952.

Memory Selection: "Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor."—Exodus 20: 16.

Lesson Text: Exodus 20: 16;  
John 18: 15-27.

While the Ninth Commandment, "Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor," refers primarily to the giving of false evidence in court, it naturally follows that it forbids the giving of false testimony against anyone at any time. This would forbid the practice of gossiping, of slandering, of adding extra facts to a story to make it more interesting and, in fact, all forms of untruths.

It is evident that the practice of lying originates in a heart that is unclean. This Jesus recognized and, for this reason, he strongly condemned the hypocrisy of the religious leaders of His day, who strictly adhered to all external rituals, such as the washing of the hands before eating, but who were not so careful that their hearts and lives were correspondingly clean. They were examples of "living lies" because their outward appearance testified to one thing, while their hearts were not in harmony with their actions. Lying does not just happen, it proceeds through unclean lips from an unclean heart.

Lying, perjury and libel were besetting sins in Israel, from Jacob to Peter, and they are our besetting sins today. The liar is not always punished, but he is always despised. In the early days of the Jews, slander was considered a cardinal sin, slaying three persons: "the speaker, the spoken-to, and the spoken-of." It was held to be worse than the theft of money, for money could be restored, but the results of a lie can never be completely wiped out.

The sections of our lesson text dealing with Jesus, John 18: 15-27, cover the terrible moments when it was most difficult for Him to stand by His truth. His whole life was a witness to that truth, but here, a few hours before his crucifixion, the temptation to tell a "white lie" would have overcome almost any person but Jesus. If He had compromised the truth at all, the whole purpose of His ministry would have been destroyed—and He would have become known to history just another prophet, who weakened in a moment of supreme peril. Standing fast, He became the embodiment of truth and undying love.

We should not be too hard on the disciple Peter—we are too much like him to criticize him too severely. Warming himself by the enemy's fire, in the courtyard of the house in which Jesus was a prisoner, Peter found it hard to acknowledge the truth—that he knew Jesus and was one of his followers. He had already lied under the taunt of the servant-girl, now he lies again at the question of a servant of the high priest. With the greatest tragedy of the ages occurring before his eyes, Peter stood and warmed himself.

We, too, warm ourselves at the little fires of the world—the fires of greed while a world starves; we lie for our own safety when the cause of God is in peril; we have warm clothes while the children of the world have nothing but rags in which to protect themselves against the cold.

We have just to pick up the morning paper to see that lying, hypocrisy, untruthfulness, dishonesty and the like are just as prevalent today as they were in the time of Moses or of Jesus. In private and in public, there are glaring examples of all forms of false witnessing. Very often we read of witnesses in court being prosecuted for perjury, for giving false testimony. In international affairs, we have instances where nations sign treaties, with apparently no intention of abiding by the provisions contained in them. Thus, we witness the breakdown in private, local, state, national and international affairs of honesty and sincerity.

When confidence is destroyed, the very base of civilization is undermined, for, whether we realize it or not, our everyday business transactions depend upon our faith in the truthfulness and honesty of those with whom we deal. We trust the merchant from whom we buy an article to sell us worthy merchandise at a fair price. We mail a letter to a distant city, confident that it will be delivered because we believe in the honesty of the postal employees. We follow our doctor's orders because we have faith in his integrity and confidence in his ability. What a terrible

BE A BETTER  
CITIZEN!  
GO TO SOME  
CHURCH  
NEXT SUNDAY

# THE HOURS OF YOUTH



Time once loomed larger in your life than it does now. An hour once seemed "a real long time." That was when you were very young.

Today when you "spend" an hour either profitably or wastefully you are parting with only a tiny fraction of your life. But, then, you were investing or squandering a large portion of your most important asset.

On this obvious truth rests the vital importance of childhood religious training. Faith and moral character grow most rapidly in the formative early years. And the beliefs and habits acquired in those "big" hours of our childhood are not easily crowded out by the multiplicity of worldly concerns which overflow our later days and years.

Every hour you devote to the religious training of your child, going to Church with him, reading Bible stories to him, sending him to Vacation Church School, helping him to live and work and play by the best code, will strengthen your own character—and mold his!

## THE CHURCH FOR ALL... ALL FOR THE CHURCH

The Church is the greatest factor on earth for the building of character and good citizenship. It is a storehouse of spiritual values. Without a strong Church, neither democracy nor civilization can survive. There are four sound reasons why every person should attend services regularly and support the Church. They are: (1) For his own sake. (2) For his children's sake. (3) For the sake of his community and nation. (4) For the sake of the Church itself, which needs his moral and material support. Plan to go to church regularly and read your Bible daily.

Day	Book	Chapter	Verses
Sunday	Psalms	111	1-10
Monday	Matthew	12	24-30
Tuesday	John	5	19-28
Wednesday	John	12	27-36
Thursday	Acts	3	1-16
Friday	Ephesians	4	1-16
Saturday	Revelation	7	1-13

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# Perquimans Church Services

**HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH**  
C. W. Duling, Pastor  
Sunday School, 9:45 A. M.  
Morning Worship, 11:00 o'clock.  
Evening Worship, 8 o'clock.  
Mid-week Services, Wednesday at 8 P. M.

**BETHLEHEM CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
Joe Brickhouse, Pastor  
First Sunday  
11 A. M. and 8 P. M.

**BURGESS BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Colon Jackson, Jr., Pastor  
Church services second and fourth Sundays at 11 A. M.  
Sunday School at 10:00 A. M.  
Church service 7:45 P. M. second and fourth Sundays.

**PERQUIMANS CHARGE CHURCHES**  
H. M. Jamieson, Pastor  
First Sunday:  
New Hope Church, 11:00 A. M.  
Oak Grove Church, 7:00 P. M.  
Second Sunday  
Winfall Church, 11:00 A. M.  
Cedar Grove Church, 10 A. M.  
Woodland Church, 7:00 P. M.  
Third Sunday  
Oak Grove Church, 11:00 A. M.  
New Hope Church, 7:00 P. M.  
Fourth Sunday  
Cedar Grove Church, 11:00 A. M.  
Woodland Church, 10 A. M.  
Winfall Church, 7:00 P. M.  
Fifth Sunday  
Woodland Church, 11:00 A. M.  
Prayer Meeting each Wednesday at Winfall Church, 7:00 P. M.

**ANDERSON'S METHODIST CHURCH**  
R. M. Gradeless, Pastor  
Church School, 10:00 A. M.  
Morning Worship, 11:00 A. M., second and fourth Sundays.

**WOODVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
James F. Burke, Pastor  
Church Services on second and fourth Sundays at 11 A. M.  
First and Third Sundays at 7:45 P. M.  
Sunday School 9:45 A. M.

**UP RIVER FRIENDS CHURCH**  
Elizabeth White, Pastor  
Sunday School, 9:45 A. M.  
Church Services, 11 A. M.  
Christian Endeavor, 6:30 P. M.

**BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Rev. Bennie Crawford, Pastor  
Sunday School, 10 A. M.  
Preaching first and third Sundays at 11 A. M.  
Preaching second and fourth Sunday evening at 7:30.

**PINEY WOODS FRIENDS CHURCH**  
No Pastor At Present  
Sunday School, 10 A. M.  
Morning worship—11:00 A. M.

**WHITEVILLE GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Sunday School, 11 A. M., every Sunday except third Sunday.  
Church services every third Sunday at 3 P. M.

**HERTFORD METHODIST CHURCH**  
A. L. Chaplin, Pastor  
Church School, 9:45 A. M.  
Morning Worship, 11:00 o'clock.  
Youth Fellowship, 6:45 P. M.  
Evening Worship, 7:30 P. M.  
Mid-week Fellowship, Wednesday at 7:30 P. M.

**BAGLEY SWAMP PILGRIM**  
Coy S. Saunders, Pastor  
Sunday School, 10:00 A. M.  
Morning Worship, 11:00 o'clock.  
Young People's Meeting, 6:30 P. M.  
Evening Worship, 7:30 o'clock.  
Mid-week Services, Thursday at 7:30 P. M.

**HOLY TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
Rev. Charles F. Wolf, Rector.  
9:45 A. M., Church School, every Sunday.  
9:00 A. M., Holy Communion, 1st Sunday.  
8:30 A. M., Holy Communion, 2nd, 4th, 5th Sundays.  
11:00 A. M., Holy Communion, 3rd Sunday.  
11:00 A. M., Morning Prayer, 2nd, 4th, 5th Sundays.  
10:00 A. M., Holy Communion, Fridays and Saints' Days.

**BEREA CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
Walker Perry, Pastor  
2nd and 4th Sunday at 10:30 A. M.  
Morning worship on first and third Sundays at 11 A. M.  
Evening worship first and third Sundays at 7:30 P. M.

**CHAPPELL HILL BAPTIST CHURCH**  
A. H. Outlaw, Pastor  
Sunday School, 2 P. M. every first Sunday.  
Church Service 3 P. M. every first Sunday.  
Sunday school at 11 A. M. every second, third and fourth Sunday.

Go To Church Your Church Any Church But Go