








Small Group/ Reflection Notes

	10-11-2024	10:9 – You shall not give false testimony against your neighbour	
 Start	<input type="checkbox"/> Play a game of <i>Would I lie to you?</i> (BBC comedy panel show.) Invite a participant to make a brief statement that begins, "I once..." This can be either TRUE or a LIE. The other participants then each ask one question to help them decide if the statement is TRUE or a LIE.		
 Discuss	<input type="checkbox"/> Is there such thing as 'truth'? When is "my truth" helpful? Unhelpful? <input type="checkbox"/> When might you have been lied to this week? <input type="checkbox"/> When have you been tempted to lie this week? <input type="checkbox"/> Is it ever OK, even necessary, to lie? When? Why? <input type="checkbox"/> What are <i>white lies</i> ? Give examples e.g. ' <i>I like what you're wearing</i> '; ' <i>I'm praying for you</i> '. Why are they called <u>white</u> lies? What does that say about ' <i>whiteness</i> ' (the presumption that to be white is the norm/ standard by which all others are judged)?		
 Read	<u>Exodus 20:1-16</u>	 Listen again	ChesterRoadBaptist.org.uk/Watch
 Explore	<input type="checkbox"/> v.16 : Why is truth/ trust so important when living alongside others (community)? Why would his have been especially true for those, like the Israelites, fleeing from an oppressive regime and wandering in the desert in search of safety? <input type="checkbox"/> Deuteronomy 19:16-19 : How were some manipulating the Courts to 'get rid' of those they disliked/ were in dispute with? What could false accusations/ false testimony do? Given the range of Old Testament 'offences' that carried the death penalty (see below), how was this better than murder? Pick at random one or two of the references below: how could false testimony get someone executed? When has 'false testimony' led to wrong convictions in UK Courts? e.g. 'Birmingham Six', Post Office Horizon scandal, 'Stockwell Six' 'Oval Four'... What were/ are the consequences for those wrongly convicted? <input type="checkbox"/> John 14:6 : What does Jesus claim to be? What does it mean to be <u>the Truth</u> ? <input type="checkbox"/> John 8:32 : What does it mean to <i>know</i> the truth? Is this about knowing knowledge/ doctrines/ beliefs or is it about knowing <i>Jesus</i> , the Truth? How does this <i>set us free</i> ? From what? For what? <input type="checkbox"/> Numbers 23:19 : How does God differ to humans? How? Why? <input type="checkbox"/> Hebrews 6:18 : Why is it <i>impossible</i> for God to lie? <input type="checkbox"/> Ephesians 4:15 : What does it mean to speak the <i>truth</i> in <i>love</i> ? What happens when we prioritise truth? What makes it authentically <i>..in love</i> ? <input type="checkbox"/> Ephesians 4:25 : What are we to do? Why? When have you experienced this? <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 5:33-37 : Why do some say, " <i>I swear on my...</i> "? Does it make them sound more or less believable? Why does Jesus encourage us to be more confident in our own "yes" or "no" responses? Why not rely on the testimony/ authority of others to validate what we say?		

<p>Go further</p> 	<p><input type="checkbox"/> What 'offences' did the Law say should result in the death penalty? Here are just 10:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Exodus 21:12:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Exodus 21:16:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Exodus 21:17:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Exodus 22:20:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Exodus 31:14:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Leviticus 20:10:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Leviticus 20:13:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Leviticus 20:15-16:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Leviticus 24:16:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Deuteronomy 21:18-21:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> To take the Bible seriously, should we be executing people today for these same reasons? Why? How does Jesus change everything?</p>
 <p>Reflect</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Which one verse stands out to you? Why do you think it grabs your attention?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Which verse(s) will you need to think more about? Why?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> What one thing will you do differently?</p>
 <p>Do</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Watch a film/ drama series with a miscarriage of justice theme e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Bates v. The Post Office (ITV drama series) • In the Name of the Father (film) <p><input type="checkbox"/> What does it take to 'speak truth to power'?</p>
 <p>Pray</p>	<p><i>Jesus, thank you that you are the Way, the Truth, the Life. Help me to live your Truth, when I _____. Help me to speak your Truth: you are _____. Help me to do all this in your love. Amen.</i></p>
 <p>My questions:</p>	

If you're not yet in a small group, why not join one! Check out: ChesterRoadBaptist.org.uk/SmallGroups
 Can't see a group to suit your availability/interest? Start one! SmallGroups@ChesterRoadBaptist.org.uk.