



## Who Is My Neighbor?

It's striking that the second table of the Law, which is about loving our neighbor, begins with family. The family is our closest neighborhood. It's the place that is both the easiest to show love ... and the hardest. It's

easiest because we naturally love our own family members, and it's hardest because we know how to get under our skin like no one else! As the saying goes, you can choose your friends, but not your family.

**What makes it easy for you to love your family?**  
**What makes it hard?**  
**Some say the home is the practice ground for loving others. What do you think about that?**

# Loving Others



*Honor your  
father and your  
mother, so that  
you may live  
long in the land  
the Lord your  
God is giving  
you.*

—Exodus 20:12



People in your c  
around the worl  
for parents and  
different ways.  
the ways in whi  
in the Korean, In  
cultures.

## Korea

Imagine bowing to  
grandparents and  
waiting for them to  
This formal courtes  
children show resp  
day, but at special  
or when the childr  
absence.

Koreans use two k  
one is a friendly ki  
people; the other is  
people. In the Kore  
to use proper type  
and love.

But the most impo  
children honor the  
is by obeying them  
their hearts.



Country and  
ld express honor  
other adults in  
Consider a few of  
ch honor is shown  
ndian, and Navajo

# Cuba

In a typical Cuban family, children learn that they have to respect adults and especially grandparents, because they are “ancianos” (elderly) and because we are grateful to them for all their sacrifice for the family. If grandparents live in the same city, families show their respect and care by trying to visit them at least once a week, usually on Sundays.

There is no greater joy for Cuban grandparents than to hear their grandchildren call them “abuelitos,” which is a term of endearment.

—Hector Garcia



ow before your parents or  
then sitting before them,  
o welcome you or bless you.

es is one way in which Korean  
pect to older people—not every  
times such as New Year’s Day  
ren come home after a long

kinds of verbal expressions—  
nd, fit for friends and younger  
is an honorable one for older  
ean culture people are expected  
es of language to show respect

ortant way in which Korean  
eir parents and grandparents  
n, not just in words but also in

—Jay Shim



# India

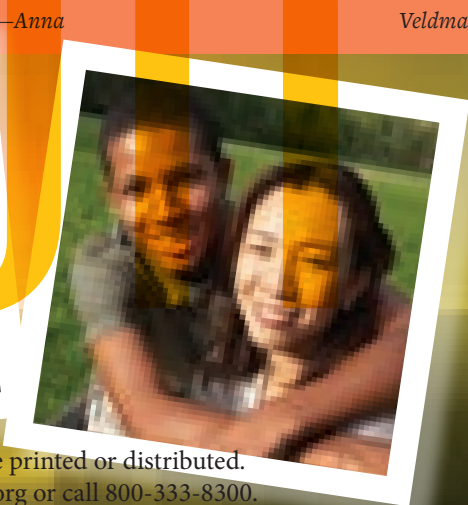
In India we respect our parents not only when we are children but even when we become adults. We value our parents’ opinions when it comes to major decisions like choosing a college and a career. I remember my mother telling me how she had to resign from her job because her father didn’t approve of that particular job because she had to work on Sundays and couldn’t attend church.

In many traditional Indian families, even today, parents decide whom you should marry, and their approval is vital, no matter how old a person is. Even after a person gets married, their parents are always given a lot of respect in their homes. Parents can visit and stay with their children any time. And it is understood that when parents grow old their children will take care of them.

In India we also respect adults and elders who are not our parents. For instance, we always stand up to greet an older person. And we always give our seat to an older person, if needed. We never address older people by their first name but call them “uncle” or “aunty.”

—Anna

Veldman



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# Q&A

## Q. What is God's will for you in the fifth commandment?

A. I should honor, love, and be loyal to my father and mother and to all others whom God gives authority over me.

—Q&A 59



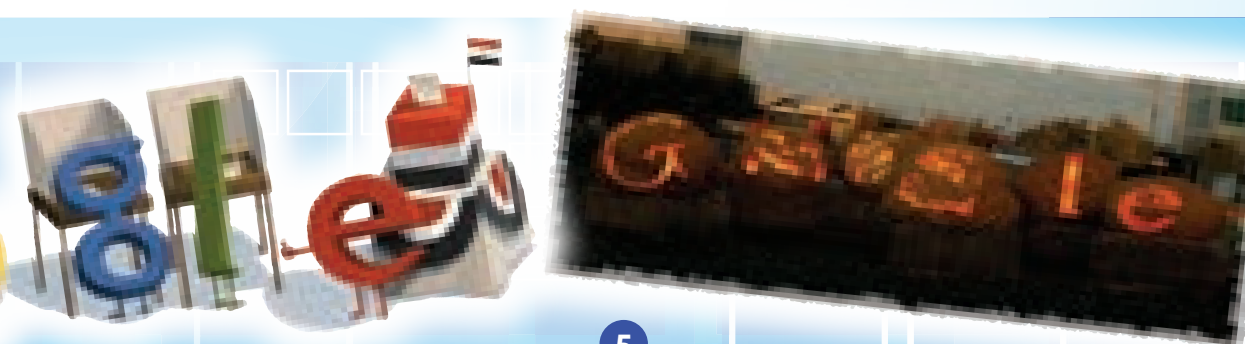
# PREVIEW


Notice the clever ways Google uses art to give new meaning to its logo during holidays or other special events. Work in pairs or individually to create a similar style of word art using one or several of the words found in either **Exodus 20:12** or **Ephesians 6:1-4**. Use the space provided here or use a separate piece of paper. Be ready to describe your design to the larger group.





# PREVIEW





# PREVIEW

## Q&A

**Q. What is God's will for you in the sixth commandment?**

A. I should do nothing to insult, hurt, or kill my neighbors.

Instead I should love them as I love myself.

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—Q&A 60

# Who Is My Neighbor?



Jesus told the story of the good Samaritan to help us think about who God expects us to show love to and what it means to be a good neighbor to someone. Live into this story by imagining what motivated some of the people involved—the person who was wounded, the Levite or the priest who walked by without helping, and the Samaritan who got involved. Imagine you are a news reporter or talk show host. What would you want to ask these people? How do you think they would respond?

Use six or more of the questions below to create an interview that explores what might have been going on in the hearts and minds of each of these people. Add some of your own questions too if you'd like. Choose roles within your small group—some as interviewers, some as interviewees—and plan to stage the interview for the rest of your group to see. Talk about the answers the interviewees will share, and consider jotting down some notes below to use during your presentation.

## *Questions for the Levite or the priest:*

What did you think when you saw the man who was wounded?

Why did you walk past rather than stopping?

Would you make the same decision again?

Additional questions:

## *Questions for the Samaritan:*

Why did you stop to help the man who was wounded?

When you saw that he was a Jew, did you have second thoughts?

Wouldn't it have been enough to get him off the road, somewhere safe? Why pay for his medical care too?

Additional questions:

## *Questions for the man who was wounded:*

What do you remember about what happened to you?

How did you feel when you found out it was a Samaritan who was helping you?

What did you say to the Samaritan man?

What advice would you give to others after having faced this situation?

Additional questions:

# PREVIEW



## Name That Person

Read the descriptions below and take a few minutes to write in the names of people who fit those descriptions.

The person who sits three seats in front of or three seats behind you in your third class of the day: \_\_\_\_\_

Your favorite relative: \_\_\_\_\_

A distant relative you hardly know or have only heard about: \_\_\_\_\_

Someone who lives on the same street as you: \_\_\_\_\_

Your homeroom (or first-hour) teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Someone you knew who moved away: \_\_\_\_\_

Someone you see at church: \_\_\_\_\_

Someone you often disagree with: \_\_\_\_\_

Someone who lives in a different country: \_\_\_\_\_

Someone you don't know but hope to meet someday: \_\_\_\_\_

Someone who has hurt your feelings or made you angry: \_\_\_\_\_

A person who was unexpectedly kind to you: \_\_\_\_\_

Someone who annoys you: \_\_\_\_\_

Someone you are proud of: \_\_\_\_\_

Someone who needs your help: \_\_\_\_\_

*What do all these people have in common?*





# Doing Good Rather Than Harm

Spend a few minutes reflecting on the story and asking God to show you who to love this week.

When have you felt like the man who was wounded?

List a few of the needs or wounds you see in the people in your school, close neighborhood, or church.

1.

2.

3.

4.

EW

From what you know of them from the story, what do you think the Levite or priest would have done upon encountering people with these needs or wounds?

What will you do?

# You Shall Not Murder



**STOP**



**GO**

# PREVIEW

What are some things we need to **STOP** doing if we want to obey the sixth commandment? Look up the following passages and write down the things they tell us to **STOP** doing:

Matthew 5:21-22  
Romans 12:19  
2 Corinthians 12:20  
1 John 3:15

What are some things we should **GO** and do if we want to obey the sixth commandment? Look up the following passages and write down the things they tell us to **GO** and do:


Matthew 5:44  
Matthew 22:37-39  
Colossians 3:12-13  
James 1:19  
1 John 4:11



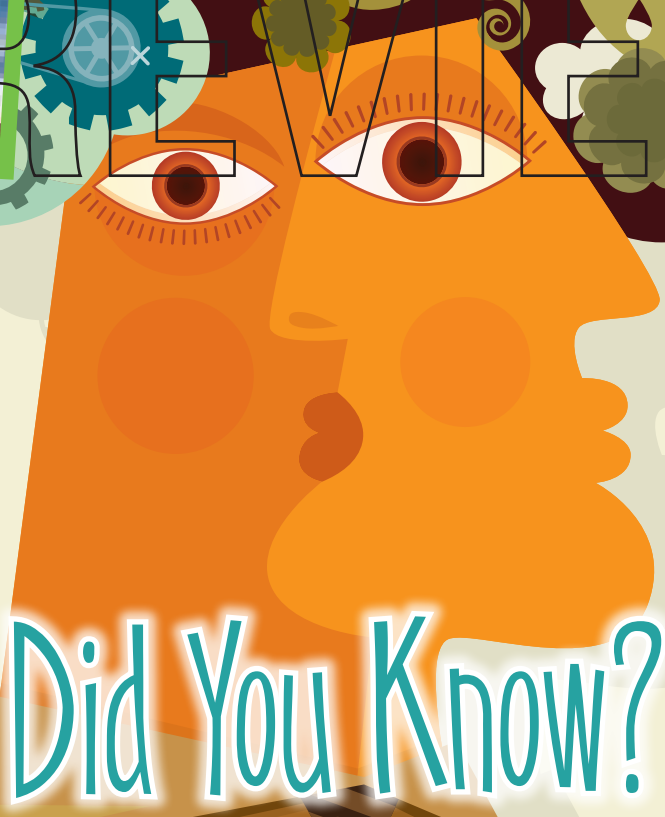
The human hand has 27 bones: your face has 14!



You have over 230 moveable and semi-moveable joints in your body.



Humans and giraffes have the same number of bones in their necks. Giraffe neck vertebrae are just much, much longer!



PREVIEW

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Did You Know?

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Exodus 20:14

Genesis 2:24

1 Thessalonians 4:3-8

1 Corinthians 6:18-20

1 Corinthians 13:4-5

Matthew 5:27-28

## The Gift of Sexuality User's Guide

Invented by God © In the Beginning

Purpose of the Gift

Examples of How the Gift Is Meant to Be Used

Benefits of Using the Gift as God Intends

Warning against Misusing the Gift

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

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—*Philippians 4:8*

# Q&A

## Q. What is God's will for you in the seventh commandment?

A. I should keep the promises of marriage, and avoid all sexual sin in my thoughts, words, or actions.

—Q&A 61

# Thoughts, Words, Actions

1. Q&A 61 says that we can sin sexually with our thoughts, our words, and our actions. Below are examples of things that could be sexually sinful. Put a check by the three you think are most common among young teens your age.

- listening to songs with obscene language or sexual content
- thinking impure thoughts
- undressing for someone
- telling dirty jokes
- using obscene language
- having sex with someone outside of marriage
- thinking about other people only in terms of their appearance
- watching movies or TV shows with sexual content and humor
- wearing clothing that is revealing or that displays obscene language
- making inappropriate comments about someone's physical appearance
- touching someone in personal places
- referring to persons of the opposite sex with names that put them down
- viewing sexy stuff on the Internet or in magazines
- giving too much attention to how you look and what you wear

PREVIEW

- posting or sending sexy photos or messages online or by phone
- other: \_\_\_\_\_
- other: \_\_\_\_\_
- other: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Now think positively! Go back over the list above and change each one into an example of how we can keep ourselves "pure and holy" in our thoughts, words, and actions.

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Write down all the reasons you can think of for obeying the seventh commandment:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



## The Corinthian Cause

# The Nightly News

Welcome to another great evening of news from WOW News Channel 7. I'm [Glen/Gladys] Glad, host of the nightly news, and I am so glad you've decided to join us tonight. We have been following a truly inspiring story that began in Macedonia and has spread here to Corinth. We're calling it the "Corinthian Cause" because a group of Christians here in Corinth has banded together with courage and generosity to help needy Christians who live in Jerusalem. Let's go live to our reporters in the field.

*Use the interview questions on pages 15-17, along with your Bibles (**Exodus 20:15, 1 Corinthians 16:1-4, 2 Corinthians 8:13-15, 2 Corinthians 9:6-15**) to create a human interest story about the Corinthian Cause.*

## Q&A

You shall not steal.

—Exodus 20:15

14

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Hi, I'm \_\_\_\_\_ reporting live from the side of the road, where I've caught up with the man known as the apostle Paul. He has been writing and traveling from church to church and is now on his way to Corinth in an effort to collect money for poverty-stricken Christians in Jerusalem. Let's hear what he has to say.



Illustrations by Drew Hesse

## PREVIEW

### An Interview with Paul

Paul, why should Christians in Corinth give money to those in Jerusalem?

We have a quote from a letter you sent to the church in Corinth. In it you said, “Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.” What did you mean by that?

Do you expect everyone to give, or just those who have money to spare?

How will you determine whether this project is a success?

Additional question(s):

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#### Q. What is God's will for you in the eighth commandment?

A. I should not cheat or steal from my neighbors but do whatever I can for their good. I should not be greedy but should take good care of all God's gifts and freely share them.

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Good evening, I'm \_\_\_\_\_ reporting from the church in Corinth, where people have been storing up money week by week to give to the apostle Paul when he arrives. I have \_\_\_\_\_ here to tell me what that's been like.

\_\_\_\_\_, I understand you've been saving some money each week for an offering that will go to needy Christians in Jerusalem. How did you decide how much to set aside each week?

How has this affected your budget—are there things you've cut back on in order to help with the offering?

Why do you think it's important to share what you have with others?

What have you learned from this experience?

Additional question(s):



## **An Interview with a Christian in Corinth**

# PREVIEW

[Glen/Gladys], I'm here in Macedonia, which is another city whose Christian church has been collecting money for the Jerusalem offering. The remarkable thing about this church is that many of its members are in financial trouble themselves. Yet they're determined to help those in Jerusalem who are struggling to meet their basic needs. I'd like you to meet \_\_\_\_\_, who has invited me into [her/his] home to tell me about what this offering has meant to [him/her]. You can see as I pan the room with the camera that this is a modest home with no luxuries.

*(Note: read 2 Corinthians 8:1-5 to help answer for the Macedonian Christian.)*

\_\_\_\_\_, we have been following the story of the offering that is being collected for Jerusalem, and we're interested in your perspective. I have here a clip from a letter the apostle Paul wrote to the church in Corinth. In it he mentioned your church's offering. This is what he said: "In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity . . . they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability." What motivated you, and others in your community, to give even though you have so little to spare?

Were you concerned that if you gave you wouldn't have enough to care for yourself and your family?

What did you learn about God through this process?

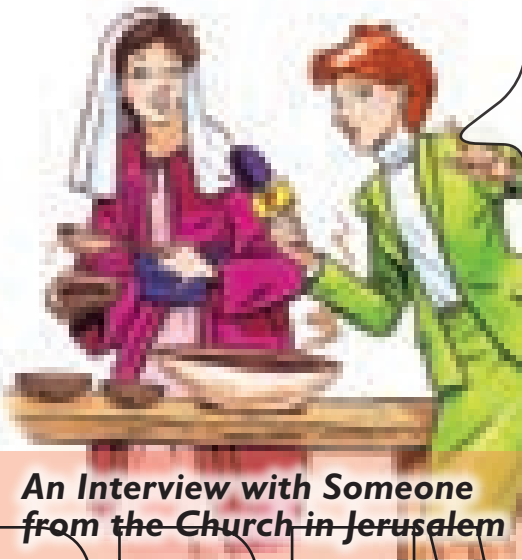
What would you say to the Christians in Corinth who are trying to decide what, if anything, to give?

Additional question(s):



## **An Interview with Someone from Macedonia**





**An Interview with Someone from the Church in Jerusalem**

Good evening folks, I'm \_\_\_\_\_, and I'm here with \_\_\_\_\_ in Jerusalem, where anticipation is building as the apostle Paul travels from church to church to collect money for the Christians here who are struggling to feed and clothe their families. This is the second collection from the churches, and what has already been distributed to the Christians in Jerusalem has helped a great deal. I bumped into \_\_\_\_\_ at this soup kitchen in the heart of the city. Let's hear [his/her] story.

\_\_\_\_\_, what was it like to receive the first offering Paul collected from the churches?

Were you surprised that so many people you've never met are willing to share with you? Why do you think they do it?

What do you hope will happen when the second offering arrives?

What have you learned about God from this situation?

What would you like to say to others out there who are in need? What would you like to say to those who have plenty?

Additional question(s):

PREVIEW



**The Corinthian Cause**

**Signing Off from the Nightly News**

What a beautiful story of God's incredible work in the hearts of his people—moving them to care for others in practical ways. Thanks to our great reporters for their excellent coverage, and thank you for joining us for tonight's broadcast of the Nightly News. This is WOW News Channel 7, where we're always glad to share with you the good things God is doing in your community. Good evening to all.

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The Nightly News



**Ima Believer** Corinth



**Matthew** @apostleMatthew

Follow



**Mark** @apostleMark

Follow



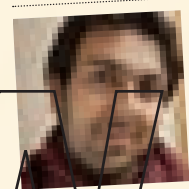
**Luke** @apostleLuke

Follow



**Andrew** @fishnetsandmore

Follow



# PREVIEW

**Apostle Paul @2Corinthians8:9NIV**

56 min

Though he [the Lord Jesus Christ] was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

**Apostle Paul @2Corinthians8:14NirV**

2 hr

Right now you have plenty in order to take care of what they need. Then they will have plenty to take care of what you need.

**Apostle Paul @2Corinthians9:7aNirV**

5 hr

You should each give what you have decided in your heart to give. You shouldn't give if you don't want to.

**Apostle Paul @2Corinthians9:7bNirV**

16 hr

You shouldn't give because you are forced to. God loves a cheerful giver.

**King David @Psalm24:1NIV**

2 day

The earth is the LORD's and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.

**Apostle Paul @2Corinthians9:8TheMessage**

3 day

God can pour on the blessings in astonishing ways so that you're ready for anything and everything . . . ready to do what needs to be done.

PREVIEW

**Q. What is God's will for you in the ninth commandment?**

A. I should not hurt my neighbor by gossip and lying. Instead I should love the truth and speak it openly.

—Q&A 63

# Tongue

# PREVIEW

If I were her,  
I would...

Marissa told  
me...

Did you hear  
what he said  
about her?

I heard that  
she is...

I saw  
Thurs

We get it wrong nearly every time we open our mouths. If you could find someone whose speech was perfectly true, you'd have a perfect person, in perfect control of life.

A bit in the mouth of a horse controls the whole horse. A small rudder on a huge ship in the hands of a skilled captain sets a course in the face of the strongest winds.

A word out of your mouth may seem of no account, but it can accomplish nearly anything—or destroy it!

A careless or wrongly placed word from your mouth can do that. By our speech we can ruin the world, turn harmony into chaos, throw mud on a reputation, send a city to the world up in smoke and go up in smoke itself, smoke right from the pit of hell.

This is scary: You can tame a tiger, but you can't tame a tongue—it's never broken. The tongue runs wild, a wanton killer.

With our tongues we bless God our Father with the same tongues we curse the Father. We bless men and women he made in his image.



# Trouble

She said she was going to the movies but...

Don't tell him I told you.

Can you believe she did that?

them together on Monday.

and out of  
speech we  
to chaos,  
the whole  
nake with  
l.

g, but you  
een done.  
iller.

ur Father;  
he very  
age.

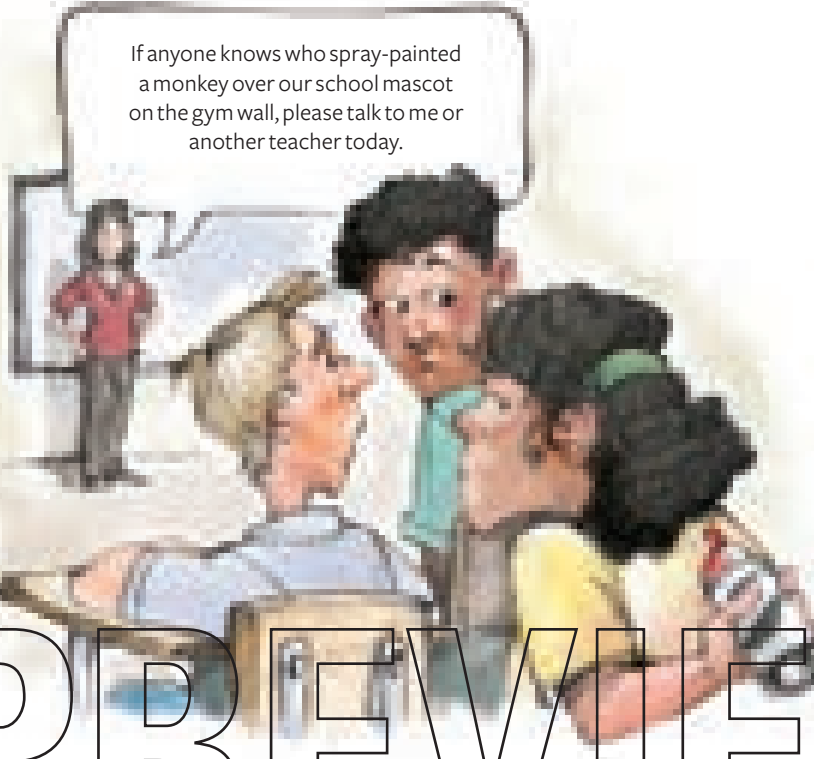
Curses and blessings out of the same mouth!

A spring doesn't gush fresh water one day and brackish the next, does it? Apple trees don't bear strawberries, do they? Raspberry bushes don't bear apples, do they? You're not going to dip into a polluted mud hole and get a cup of clear, cool water, are you?

—James 3:2-12, *The Message*

# PREVIEW

1. When have your words had a powerful effect, either negative or positive?
2. Why is it that words can hurt so much?
3. Why is it so hard for us to control what we say?
4. Do you think this commandment is even harder to keep now that we can say things online or in text messages? Why or why not?
5. Look again at the last two paragraphs—what are they trying to tell us?



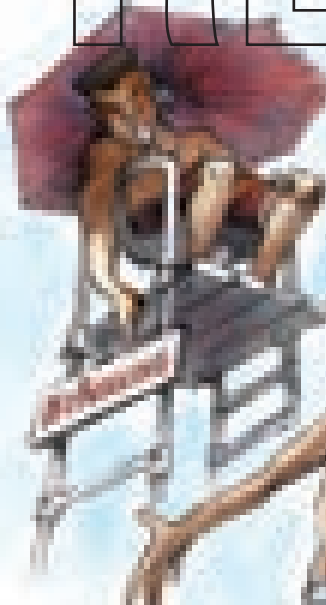
If anyone knows who spray-painted a monkey over our school mascot on the gym wall, please talk to me or another teacher today.

# The Lies


Lies come in many forms, to gossiping to the silent lie, to an out-and-out lie. Work in pairs to write descriptions of lies with

When you're finished, choose a lie to create a skit of a real-life situation. Write the type of lie you selected and a scenario that someone your age might use. Allow 5-8 minutes to think of a skit. Write the scenario two ways. First you'll present the person lies. Then you'll present the real-life time, with the person in the skit choosing to follow the ninth rule than 1

# PREVIEW



I wasn't running!  
I was just walking fast!



How do you like my new sweater?

# S We Tell

from stretching the truth  
e, the hurtful truth, or the  
airs or trios to match these  
n the five comics below.

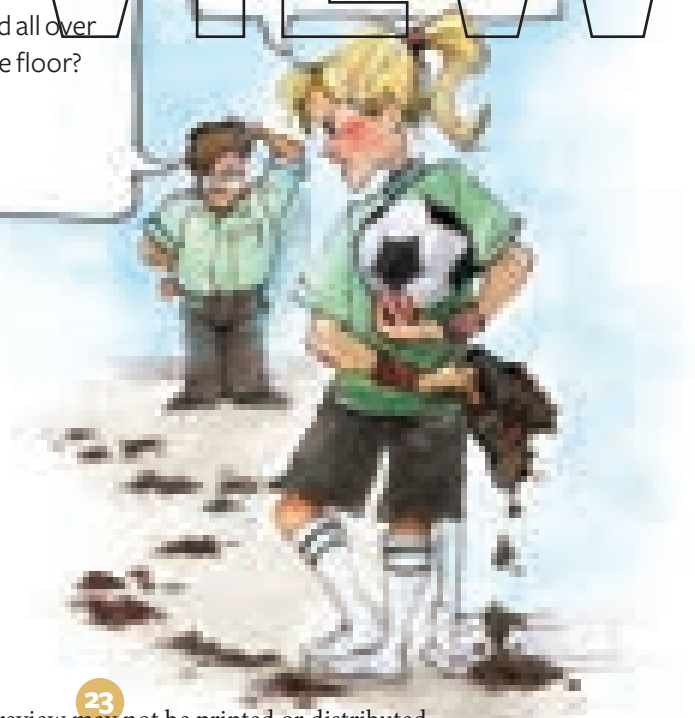
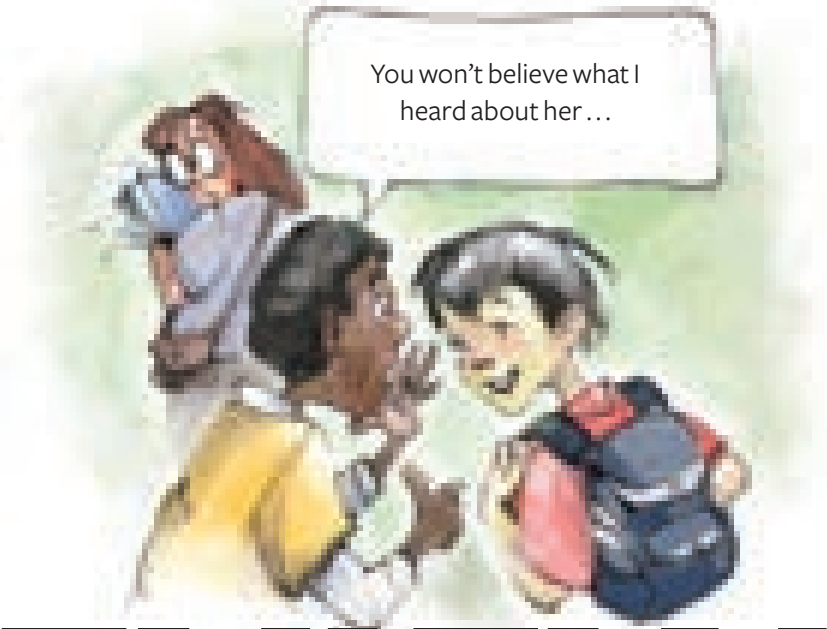
ose one of the types of lies  
fe situation that involves  
. Try to make it something  
ight say or do. You'll have  
kit and plan to present it in  
ent the situation in which  
ll present the skit a second  
n the same situation but  
th commandment rather  
lying.

# PREVIEW

Who tracked this mud all over the floor?

Not me. What a mess!

Eew, it looks like burnt pizza.



If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.

—1 John 1:8-9



## What about My Tongue?

We've all messed up when it comes to obeying the ninth commandment.

Using the sentence starters below, take some time to consider what that looks like in your life. Then spend a few minutes confessing those things to God and asking for his help. Write down your thoughts and prayers here, or silently reflect on them.

- I'm most tempted to lie when ...
- I'm most likely to lie about ...
- I'm most likely to lie to ...
- I'm most tempted to gossip when ...
- I most often gossip about ...



# Mary's Song



And Mary said,

I'm bursting with God-news;  
I'm dancing the song of my Savior God.  
God took one good look at me, and look what happened—  
I'm the most fortunate woman on earth!  
What God has done for me will never be forgotten,  
the God whose very name is holy, set apart from all others.  
His mercy flows in wave after wave  
on those who are in awe before him.  
He bared his arm and showed his strength,  
scattered the bluffing braggarts.  
He knocked tyrants off their high horses,  
pulled victims out of the mud.  
The starving poor sat down to a banquet;  
the callous rich were left out in the cold.  
He embraced his chosen child, Israel;  
he remembered and piled on the mercies, piled them high.  
It's exactly what he promised,  
beginning with Abraham and right up to now.

—Luke 1:46-55, *The Message*



# The Stories behind the Songs

## PREVIEW

### Holey Bellows on a Holy Night

It was Christmas Eve, 1818, in a small Austrian village. A special service was scheduled in the village church for the next morning—Christmas Day. But there was a problem.

As Franz Gruber, the church organist, sat down to practice, he found the old church organ broken. The bellows (or “lungs”) of the organ, which expand and contract as the organist pumps the foot pedals, had finally given way to a determined pack of mice. The bellows wouldn’t expand. No matter how hard Franz pumped the pedals, barely a sound came from the organ. Not nearly enough to lead worship on Christmas morning.

Worse, a snowstorm raged outside the church, leaving huge snowdrifts that made the roads to the village impassible. No one would be able to get in to repair the organ before Christmas. Gruber told the church’s priest, Joseph Mohr, about the situation, and together they considered the sad prospect of celebrating Christmas without music.

That evening Joseph Mohr looked out his cottage window and saw a beautiful scene. The storm had stopped and the moonlight glistened off the snow-covered ground like diamonds. He wondered at the bright stillness of the night. Then he sat down and began writing a song.

On Christmas morning, Mohr gave the words of his song to Gruber, who worked on a simple but beautiful melody to accompany them.

Later that morning the people from the town gathered at the little church to celebrate Christmas. Candles gleamed from the windows, and the soft light glowed on the snow piled high outside. As the villagers stepped inside the warm church, they were greeted by a beautiful sound. Franz Gruber was strumming a guitar as the children of the church sang a brand-new Christmas song: “Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright . . .

## A Night to Remember

What would it be like to spend Christmas in Bethlehem? To celebrate Jesus' birth in the same town that nearly had no room for him—to be so close to the place where he once lay?

Phillips Brooks, an Episcopalian minister who lived near the time of the American Civil War, wanted to find out. One December he traveled to Bethlehem and spent Christmas Eve in the stillness of that small town. He imagined the angel chorus filling the sky with bright light and music. He pictured the shepherds coming in from the fields

to visit the newborn baby Jesus. It was an experience he never forgot.

Years later, Brooks was asked by organist Lewis Reder to write a Christmas song for a chapel service in Boston. As Brooks sat down to write, he thought back to his visit to Bethlehem. As those wonderful memories flowed through his mind again, he began writing, hoping that others would be able to imagine what that still, small town looked like as they sang the words he composed.

Brooks brought the words to Reder, who promised to set them to music.

But the melody wouldn't come. The harder Reder tried the more frustrated he became. Finally, on Christmas Eve, he gave up and went to bed in disgust. During the night, as Reder tossed and turned, the music came to him. He jumped from his bed and quickly scribbled the notes on a piece of paper.

On Christmas morning, 1868, the congregation of the chapel of Trinity Church in Boston sang a new Christmas song, written by their minister and set to music by their organist. The song was called "O Little Town of Bethlehem."

# PREVIEW



PREVIEW



# PREVIEW

## A Christmas Lullaby

Imagine a mother gently rocking her baby to sleep, singing a sweet lullaby. A soft light filters in through the nursery window as she smiles at her sleepy child through the warm glow.

Now picture the manger where Jesus was born. As Joseph stands by, he touches Mary's shoulder to comfort her. The animals scuffle quietly in the stable, and the hay beneath Jesus rustles softly as he wakes. In the glow of the torches,

Mary gently sings to this baby boy, the child God had promised would come.

The Christmas carol that describes this scene—"Away in a Manger"—might have been the first one you learned as a child. For a while people thought that Martin Luther was the author. They liked to think of Luther, the powerful leader of the Reformation, softly singing this lullaby to children. For a time it was even called "Luther's Cradle Hymn."

But the truth is that no one knows who wrote this carol. All we know is that the song first appeared in Philadelphia in 1885, where it was published by the Lutheran Church in America. The carol ends in a child's prayer that our hearts echo each Christmas:

Be near me, Lord Jesus,  
I ask you to stay,  
Close by me forever  
And love me, I pray.

# Great Things

“The Mighty One has done great things for me.”  
—Mary’s Song

What “great things” has God done for you personally?  
Brainstorm together as a group, and use the space below.

Then choose a way to express praise and gratitude.  
If the space on these pages isn’t sufficient,

# PREVIEW

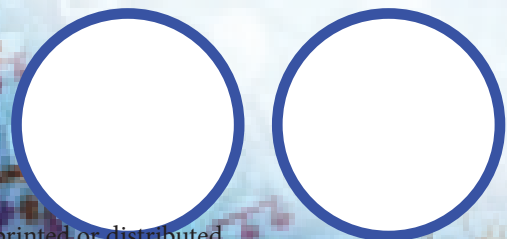
Make a mural or collage or show some of the things God has done for you.

Write a poem, song, or rap like Mary’s to praise God for all he has done for you.

Cut out or draw on posterboard a large shape that reminds you of Jesus.  
Then fill the image with the ideas you came up with of all the great things God has done for you, using a different color marker for each.

Write a letter of praise to God for Jesus’ birth. Express your gratitude.

Create a series of simple line drawings to symbolize the great things God has done for you.



# Things!

Great things for me—holy is his name.”  
Song, Luke 1:49 NIV

Personally, or for someone close to you, or for the world?  
Write below to list as many things as you can come up with.

Write to God, using one of these options or an idea of your own.  
To complete your project, use other art supplies.

Write what God has done for you. If you wish, add a title to your artwork.

Write what God has done. Don't worry about following a certain pattern or form.

# PREVIEW

Write about Jesus' birth—a manger, a star, an angel, or even a cross representing his mission.  
Write what God has done. Fill the whole shape by writing them one after another, using  
pen or crayon for each description.

Express your feelings about this great thing God has done for you!

Write things, like the story symbols you see each week,  
to describe what God has done for you.

