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STUDENT HANDOUT

YELLOW LEVEL  
GRADE LEVEL

# Bearing True Witness

Grades 5–8 • Religion

ADMIT ONE

NAME

DATE

CLASS

## PART 1

01

### Truth in a World of Deception

*You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.*

EXODUS 20:16

*You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.*

JOHN 8:32

The Eighth Commandment calls us to more than just “not lying.” The Catechism teaches that we must not misrepresent truth in any of our relationships. This includes what we say, what we share, and even what we allow others to believe through our silence.

## PART 2

02

### Applying the Commandment

For each scenario, explain how the Eighth Commandment applies:

**Scenario 1:** A friend shows you a video of a celebrity saying something shocking. It looks real, but something feels off.

What should you do? Why?

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**Scenario 2:** Someone in your class is spreading a rumor about another student. You don’t know if it’s true. Others ask you to share what you’ve heard.

What should you do? Why?

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**Scenario 3:** You shared something on social media that you later learn was false. You already got lots of likes.

What should you do? Why?

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### PART 3

03

## Two Parts of Bearing True Witness

**1. Verification:** Seeking truth before speaking

**2. Moral Courage:** Speaking truth even when difficult

Which is harder for you? Why?

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### PART 4

04

## My Commitment to Truth

Write your own commitment in your own words:

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### MINI MUSEUM CONNECTION

Spirit photographers exploited grief for profit. The Catechism (CCC 2477) specifically mentions “detraction” — disclosing another’s faults without valid reason.

How does spreading unverified information online relate to this teaching?

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[minimuseumproject.org/exhibitions/seeing-is-deceiving](http://minimuseumproject.org/exhibitions/seeing-is-deceiving)

### SHARE WITH YOUR FAMILY

**Discussion:** Talk with your family about a time when telling the truth was difficult but important. What gave you (or them) the courage to do the right thing?