

God is love and love lives here!



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## Is Lying Always a Sin?

[Jessica Brodie](#)

Award-winning Christian Novelist and Journalist



We know lying is a sin. It is listed as the ninth commandment among the [Ten Commandments](#) God gave Moses in [Exodus 20](#): "You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor" (v. 16).

Numerous Scriptures drive home the point that lying is not good, nor is it godly. We know God never lies. [Numbers 23:19](#) says, "God is not human, that he should lie, not a human being, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill?" [Titus 1:1-2](#) notes that truth leads to godliness and that God "does not lie."

Yet there are a few key examples in the Bible where lying — while not described as the right thing to do — produced a favorable outcome.

This begs the question: Is lying always a sin? Let's take a look at what the Bible says.

### What Is a Lie?

According to [Dictionary.com](#), a lie is a false statement made with deliberate intent to deceive; an intentional untruth, or something intended or serving to convey a false impression.

In the Bible, "false testimony" is considered synonymous with lying. In [Exodus 20:16](#), where God forbids lying, the words used here are *šeqer ed*. Strong's Hebrew Lexicon translates *šeqer* to mean lie, lying, falsehood, or deceit, and *ed* to mean testimony or witness.

In the Bible, lying is the opposite of truth. The psalmists particularly warn against all falsehood.

[Hebrews 6:18](#) maintains, "It is impossible for God to lie." God is good and truth — nothing false or deceitful is in him.

### What Does the Bible Say about Lies?

Besides telling us not to lie ([Exodus 20:16](#)), the Bible has many other things to say about lying. "A lying tongue" and "a false witness who pours out lies" are listed among the seven things detestable to the Lord in [Proverbs 6:16-19](#), and [Proverbs 12:22](#) declares that God "detests lying lips."

In [Psalm 119:29](#), the psalmist scorns "deceitful ways," asking the Lord to keep him from doing these things, and [Psalm 120:2](#) begs, "Save me, Lord, from lying lips and from deceitful tongues."

[Ephesians 4:25](#) urges Christian believers to "put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor," and in [Colossians 3:9](#), the apostle Paul urges the people, "Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices."

[Revelation 21:8](#) has even stronger words about liars, noting "all liars" will be condemned to the fiery lake of burning sulfur along with the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, and the idolaters.

### Scripture & Sermon:

Genesis 9:18-28

"Oldies but Goodies:  
Noah"



### New Concerns

Mac McCullough

Wyatt Blanton

John & Linda McIntosh

### Continue Prayers for:

Rick Carlson

Tommy and family

Trish Estes

Serena Williams

Warren McDow

Betty Byrd

Leon Hudson

Mary Prater

Jim & Mary Leary

Virginia Eadie

Bill Reedy

Sarah Mayer

Cary Martin

Mac McNeal

James McNeal

Our Country, Leaders, Military

The Bible is clear that lying is wrong.

In [Acts 5](#), the Bible tells about a couple in the early church, Ananias and his wife, Sapphira, who lied and kept for themselves part of the money intended for God. Not only were they publicly shamed for their actions, but the couple died as a result of their sin (v. 5, 10).

### Does Lying Ever Have a Positive Outcome?

But there are some occasions in the Bible that tell about good, godly people lying with seemingly good intentions.

For example, in [Exodus 1](#), the Israelites were living as slaves in Egypt under the oppressive Pharaoh, who sought to reduce the number of male births among the slaves because the Israelites were becoming too populous. Pharaoh ordered the Hebrew midwives to kill boy babies born to the Israelites, but to let the girls live.

However, the midwives feared God far more than they feared Pharaoh. They let the boy babies live — then lied about it when questioned by the king of Egypt.

As the Bible says, "The midwives answered Pharaoh, 'Hebrew women are not like Egyptian women; they are vigorous and give birth before the midwives arrive.' So God was kind to the midwives and the people increased and became even more numerous. And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families of their own" ([Exodus 1:19-21](#)).

Another example comes in [Joshua 2](#), when the Israelites under Joshua had entered the Promised Land and were preparing to take possession of what God had pledged to them. The Bible tells us two Israelite spies from Joshua went to Jericho and were staying at the house of Rahab, a prostitute. The king of Jericho was warned about the spies, and he ordered Rahab to send them out.

But Rahab lied, not only saving the two spies' lives but also her own, and ensuring the Israelites' victory.

"She said, 'Yes, the men came to me, but I did not know where they had come from. At dusk, when it was time to close the city gate, they left. I don't know which way they went. Go after them quickly. You may catch up with them. (But she had taken them up to the roof and hidden them under the stalks of flax she had laid out on the roof.) So the men set out in pursuit of the spies on the road that leads to the fords of the Jordan, and as soon as the pursuers had gone out, the gate was shut" ([Joshua 2:4-7](#)).

Rahab then smuggled the spies out through her window to safety. In exchange, when the Israelites returned and conquered Jericho, only Rahab and her household were spared ([Joshua 6:25](#)).

A third example is in [1 Samuel 19](#), when King Saul — who had fallen from God's favor — tried to kill the anointed one, David, who was to be the next king. When David's wife, the king's daughter Michal, learned Saul planned to kill her husband, she encouraged David to flee, then piled items in the bed to make it look like David was asleep there. When questioned about the location of her husband, she not only lied and said he was sick in bed, but later, when they discovered her deception, she further lied and told King Saul, "He threatened me. He said, 'Help me out of here or I'll kill you'" ([1 Samuel 19:18](#)).

Her lies might have saved David's life.

Not long after, when David — called "a man after God's own heart" ([Acts 13:22](#)) — was living in exile under King Achish of Gath, David and his men spent their days raiding the Geshurites, the Girzites, and the Amalekites, killing all who lived in the towns they attacked.

When Achish asked what he had been doing, David lied, telling the king he had been raiding elsewhere, against the Negev of Judah, of Jerahmeel, or of the Kenites.

David's falsehoods led Achish to trust him.

### Lies with Positive Outcomes outside of [Scripture](#)

Beyond these examples in Scripture, there are other times when lying seems to bring a positive outcome. For example, Marion Pritchard, a Dutch social worker, saved approximately 150 Jewish people, mostly children, during the Holocaust by lying on paperwork, concealing them, and even falsely registering herself as the unmarried mother of some of the newborns in order to conceal their Jewish identity. In 1991, Israel made her an honorary citizen, and at Yad Vashem, their memorial to the Holocaust, she is designated as a "Righteous Gentile."

Similar situations are faced by Christians living today in places hostile to Christianity.

Also during World War 2, but in a different matter, American military experts thought they understood the meaning of the Japanese enemy's naval attack codes. So they lied to test their theory. The Americans sent a coded but very false message stating one of their water stations in the Midway had broken and needed water. Shortly after, they intercepted a message from the Japanese about their false message — and that message confirmed their hypothesis about the Japanese code. This knowledge, achieved through a lie, enabled the Americans to prepare for what became a victorious attack on Midway and ultimately helped them win the war.

## Is Lying Ever the Right Thing to Do?

While the Bible is clear that lying is a sin, and that God never lies, there are times when it seems lying is the right thing to do, or at least in the best interest of good.

For example, a lie that saves thousands from evil is perhaps better than not lying at all.

Then again, maybe our lies are an interference with God's plan. We don't know what God had planned in the case of Rahab or the Hebrew midwives; perhaps if Rahab had not lied, God would have saved the spies or ensured the Israelite victory some other way, or saved the Hebrew baby boys.

No one knows, though it seems lying as the best course of action would be a rarity, rather than commonplace.

As Jesus taught in the Parable of the Shrewd Manager, "Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much" ([Luke 16:10](#)).



Jessica Brodie is an award-winning Christian novelist, journalist, editor, blogger, and writing coach and the recipient of the 2018 American Christian Fiction Writers Genesis Award for her novel, *The Memory Garden*. She is also the editor of the South Carolina United Methodist Advocate, the oldest newspaper in Methodism. Learn more about her fiction and read her faith blog at [jessicabrodie.com](http://jessicabrodie.com). She has a weekly [YouTube](#) devotional, too. You can also connect with her on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and more. She's also produced a free eBook, [A God-Centered Life: 10 Faith-Based Practices When You're Feeling Anxious, Grumpy, or Stressed](#)

Keep The Faith,  
Pastor Tommy

## Family Promise

If you are interested in helping out with Family Promise on our next rotation, contact J.O. or Lynn, this is a very blessed ministry of our church.

check out their website at <https://www.familypromisehoustonco.org/>

## Community Missions

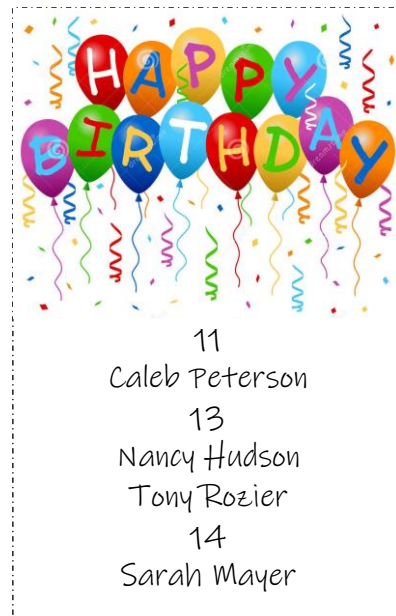
- The Food Pantry totals for August: families served- 689; people served- 2257; portions distributed- 931; weight of food distributed- 24,165 lbs... the hands and feet of Jesus.
- The next Food Pantry September 13, 11a... come on out and volunteer! You will be blessed. Our Food Pantry Team rocks!
- Clothes Closet Volunteers for September 5- Cynthia Boutwell, Marilyn Outz
- Our Clothes Closet is open every Tuesday, 9a-noon.
- **Souper Saturday!! September 30, 9a-12 noon**
- The Clothes Closet total for August was 278 people served... that's awesome!
- Thank you for your generosity to the Open Door Clothes Closet. Each week we see more and more clothed and cared for because of your gifts of love. We are entering the Fall Season and will be in need of several items. If you're cleaning out your own closets or looking to donate items, please consider donating to the Clothes Closet. We also ask you to look for some of the specific items listed below as you are preparing for the change in season. Thank you again for all you do to support our ministry!  
Men's Tennis Shoes  
Toilet Paper (preferably packaged)  
Feminine Products (Packaged)
- Workers are needed in the Clothes Closet on Mondays and Tuesdays from 9a-12 noon

## Wesley Glen Ministries

There are 2 fundraising events coming up in September for Wesley Glen, contact Stevie Bowen at 478-954-5938 or email [steve.bowen1958@gmail.com](mailto:steve.bowen1958@gmail.com) for either of these events.

~ Friday, September 15, Tidal Wave Car Wash is holding their annual charity day. For the fourth year, Tidal Wave on Peake Road in Macon is donating 50% of all car wash proceeds to Wesley Glen! If you are in the Macon area, please come by and get your car washed and support WGM.

~ Friday, September 22, we will have our Sporting Clays Tournament at Meadows Clay Sports in Forsyth. Come join us for breakfast and a fun morning of shooting clays! After the tournament we will serve lunch and give out awards and prizes. Go to [www.wesleyglenministries.com](http://www.wesleyglenministries.com) more information, or to register online for sponsorships (**We love our church sponsors!**) and tickets.



## Bible Reading Plan

### Week of September 10<sup>th</sup>:

Sunday.....	Acts 26
Monday.....	Acts 27
Tuesday.....	Acts 28
Wednesday.....	1 Thes. 1
Thursday.....	1 Thes. 2
Friday.....	1 Thes. 3
Saturday.....	1 Thes. 4

## Finance Report for September 3

Operating Budget.....	\$6,683
Apportionments.....	100
Local Mission.....	<u>360</u>
Total.....	\$7,143

### Worship Attendance:

109

### Sunday School:

60





### Red Cross Blood Drive

Giving blood helps saves lives. If you'd like to give blood, our next blood drive is October 6, 1p-5p in our Fellowship Hall. To schedule an appointment visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) and enter CUMC (yes, they need to update that...) or you can just drop by!

### Attention, please

Other income in the church – Starting September 30, 2023 all activities, organizations, ministries (ie: The Men, Women of Faith, Sunday School classes) with a checking account that is outside the church's main checking account at The Well will need to submit a financial report stating income/expenses/donations for the previous quarter and year to date... this is for inclusion in our Federal Tax submission on the 990 form for non-profit. We should have been doing this all along, but we didn't know...

### Member/Visitor Orientation

New Here? Curious about our ministries or maybe even where things are located around the facility? Join us on the 1st Sunday of each month for our visitor and new member orientation immediately following 10:30 worship. There will be a Q & A session with Pastor Tommy and tour of our facility. All are welcome and everyone is invited; just come to the front of the sanctuary following worship. See you at The Well!

### Picture of the Original Church

We still have some of the framed prints of the church ... there is one on the main bulletin board as you come in the door... if you'd like one just call or email the office, they are \$20 for the picture only and \$40 framed.

### Old Time Capsule...

At the end of August we will be packing up the things that were in the CUMC time capsule. So if you haven't stopped by the table in the breezeway and checked it out, please do so.

**New Time Capsule...** alright, yall! Are you getting your pictures and items together for the new time capsule as The Well at Centerville?? Sunday School classes, Life Groups, Partners in Prayer, Movin' n Groovin', Yoga, Quilters, church historian, Library... anyone and everyone that would like to put something in the time capsule get it together and we'll do it at our October 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday lunch after worship. It's going to be fun and exciting!

AND ALL THE DAYS  
OF NOAH WERE  
NINE HUNDRED AND  
FIFTY YEARS: AND HE  
DIED.

GENESIS 9:29 KJV

# Are you Looking for a place to serve? To get involved? We have it!

## This Week's Schedule:

### Sunday- September 10

#### Ushers

J.O. Miller, Tony Rozier  
Mel Smeltz, Cheri' Cox, Roy Carter  
Keith Mobley, Stevie Bowen  
W.C. Hester, Michael Walston  
8:30a **Staff Meeting**  
9:15a Sunday School  
10:30a Worship



#### Greeters

10:30a Sherrie Shell, Sharon Morrison

#### Communion Servers

Terry & Kitty Barfield  
Jim & Linda Blanton



#### Finance Stewards

LaWanna Porter, Kathy Rutke, Hilda Rozier

#### Assisting with Children

##### Sunday- September 10

Nursery- Sherrie Shell, Laura McKenzie  
Children- Kelly Evans, Amber Gamble

##### Sunday- September 17

Nursery- Brooke McKeever, Laura McKenzie  
Children- Linda Blanton, Brenda Crow



United Women in Faith

### Monday- September 11

~ Never Forget ~

6:00p **Finance Meeting**  
6:30p **Administrative Council Meeting**  
7:30p Narcotics Anonymous



### Tuesday- September 12

9a-12n Open Door Mission Closet  
9:15a Movin' n Groovin'  
10:00a Partners in Prayer  
10:00a Yoga  
6:00p **Life Group III "LG3"**  
7:30 p Narcotics Anonymous



### Wednesday- September 13

8:00a Men's Fellowship Breakfast  
11a Food Pantry  
6:30p Choir Practice  
7:30p Narcotics Anonymous



### Thursday- September 14

9:15a Movin' n Groovin'  
10:30a **Lynn-Pritchett Circle**  
10:00a Yoga  
5:30p Dulcimers  
6:30p Handbells  
7-9p Amateur Radio Club 2<sup>nd</sup>  
7:30p Narcotics Anonymous



### Friday- September 15

7:30p Narcotics Anonymous



### Saturday- September 16

7:30p . . Narcotics Anonymous

## Sunday School

Are you looking to get involved in Sunday School? We have a great line up of classes to explore! Maybe you've been attending Sunday School regularly but see a topic you're interested in – it's okay to move around and try different classes – let's learn and grow together!

#### Sunday School Class

Seekers  
Issues & Answers  
New Beginnings  
Christian Fellowship  
Youth  
Pilgrims

#### Studies

The Jesus You May Not Know  
Matthew  
Psalm 91  
Romans  
God's Messengers  
Acts

#### Teacher

Kathy Rutke  
Katie Odum  
Nancy Hudson  
Don Schall  
Eric & Gloria Nelson  
Kathy Blanchard





**PATRIOT DAY**  
we will never forget