

31 Living the way - Language

'Men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. For by your words you will be acquitted and by your words you will be condemned.' Matthew 12:36-37



What is gossip?



What does the Bible say? Look at 1 Timothy 5:13, Romans 1:29-30, James 3:2-8

Discuss what these two sayings mean: 'Give a dog a bad name and hang him' and 'There's no smoke without fire'. How does this affect what you say?

What rules could you make for yourself about gossiping?



What is lying? Is it lying if someone asks you if you like their clothes - you don't, but you say 'yes' anyway?

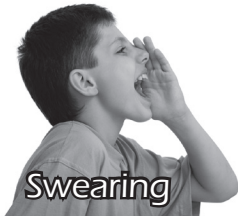


Leviticus 19:11, Psalm 101:7, Colossians 3:9.

What does the Bible say? Can you think of a verse that says the opposite?

Discuss what this saying means: 'The essence of a lie is the intent to deceive'. ('Did you take five pounds [dollars] from my purse?' 'No mum' [I took four]).

What rules could you make for yourself about lying?



What is swearing?



What does the Bible say?

Matthew 5:34, James 5:12, Ephesians 4:29, Colossians 3:8.

Why are some words worse than others?

What rules could you make for yourself about swearing?

What difference will the lesson make to you?