

Truth Tellers

Matthew 5:33-37 [page 1502]

Taking it Home:

1. As you consider the call to truth-telling, how is the Holy Spirit speaking to you? What action steps do you need to take?
2. If you are a people pleaser, do you ever struggle with telling white lies to make people happy or keep from hurting them? Consider reading, *When People are Big and God is Small* by Ed Welch.

Prayer Concerns:

The purpose of oaths

The problem with oaths

The solution to oaths

Becoming truth tellers:

1. Refrain from _____
2. Tell _____, not _____
3. Keep your _____
4. Recognize that _____ are still _____

The person of truth

Personal Study/Growth Group Discussion Questions

Getting Started:

1. What type of lies did you tell as a kid? How proficient were you on a scale from 1 (amateur) to 10 (experienced)?

Digging Deeper:

Read Matthew 5:33-37

1. As you consider your own relationships, what makes another person trustworthy? How have you seen lying and deceit damage relationships?
2. What was the purpose of oaths in the Old Testament (Read Numbers 30:1-2)? Why was God concerned that people follow through with their oaths (Read Exodus 20:7, Leviticus 19:11-12)? What oaths/vows do we take today using God's name?
3. How were oaths corrupted from their original purpose (Read Matthew 23:16-22)? What was Jesus' overall concern with the actions of the Pharisees? What did He in turn ask of His followers and why?
4. How have you seen people use loopholes to get what they want? How have you used loopholes to get what you want? (Contracts, taxes, legal docs, business, school, etc.) In doing so, how might you have kept the letter of the law while breaking the spirit of the law?
5. Review the "becoming truth tellers" section. Which of the four is the largest struggle for you? How might these ideas help you grow in truth-telling? Be specific.
6. Where do you see deceit, dishonesty, and lying taking place most prevalently in our culture? How might the media and the rise of AI influence our perspective on truth? Why might the Christian call to truth-telling be an especially effective tool for evangelism in our day and age?