

Small Group Discussion Guide — Read Matthew 5:33-37

- A passage about oath-taking or vows might seem a little a little distant to us, modern-day readers, so how might we describe this in our terms today?
- How were the Pharisees distorting and twisting the law by their “religious loophole” games? How was it like “sanctified lying”? How does Matthew 23:16-22 help to shed light on what they were doing?
- Is Jesus condemning all oath-taking? Is it wrong for Christians to take a public vow, be sworn into an office, or to take an oath? Why or why not? (See Matthew 26:62-64; Rom 1:9; 2 Cor 1:23)
- Why do we lie? What is really at the “root” of lying? Joshua mentioned two reasons we lie or deceive, what were they? (*1. Because we want to make ourselves look better than we are 2. Because we want something we don't have*) how is this at the root? Where do you see this in your own life?
- How do we fight against the sin of lying?
- Joshua mentioned some of the “ugly cousins” of lying and deceiving that we tend to overlook or downplay. What might some of those be? Where do you often struggle the most?
- In a world full of lies, how does dishonesty among Christians affect our witness in the world?