

## SERMON ON THE MOUNT: A SERIES IN MATTHEW

**Matthew 5:33-37 — Oaths****A Note to the Parents/Teachers**

*As Jesus continued to examine the Law and what was said about it, and continued to take it a step further, he brought up what it means to make an oath before God. There may be a tendency with this passage to use it to teach our kids that lying is bad. Though this is true, please see that Jesus is speaking about so much more. Once again, Jesus is getting to the heart. Rather than seeing an oath as something contractually binding you to an obligation, he is inviting us into a way of relating to one another with such integrity, honesty, and sincerity that people can trust our actions because of our track record of trustworthiness and care. Life is just better when we can trust one another. And yet, have we not all fallen short of this? Pray that the kids and teachers can see the trustworthiness of God in these words of Jesus!*

- **Big Idea:** The way of the Kingdom includes trustworthy relationships — and Jesus is the Trustworthy King!

**Starter****Evidences of Grace**

- Ask kids to share ways they've seen God at work lately. Anything good, big or small, is from God. Take time to thank God together.
- **Ask:** Have you ever broken a promise? Has anyone every broken a promise to you? How did that feel?

## Sing Together Story — from Matthew 5:33-37

As Jesus continued to teach about a new way of living together within the Kingdom of God, he talked about the Law God's people had been given and what it meant to follow it. Jesus wanted them to see that following the rules on the outside in order to be 'good enough' was not the point. God wanted to change the hearts of His people so they would experience the goodness of His Kingdom and be a demonstration of the good life to the world around them.

So Jesus went over some of the Laws their religious leaders would teach, and he took it a step further:

*It's not enough to not murder someone, God wants your heart to be changed so you don't have anger toward another.*

*It's not enough to just stay married, God wants you to desire faithful relationships where you care for one another and stay committed, putting others before yourself. This shows what God is like and how He is committed to us.*

Jesus then talked about making promises, or oaths. He said:

*Again, you have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not break your oath, but fulfill to the Lord the vows you have made.'*

*But I tell you, do not swear an oath at all: either by heaven, for it is God's throne; or by the earth, for it is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the Great King. And do not even swear by your head, for you cannot make even one hair white or black. All you need to say is simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything beyond this comes from the evil one.*

It makes sense that we can't swear an oath by heaven, because it belongs to God. Or by the whole earth, because God made it. It also belongs to God. Jesus then goes even further and says, *'Even your hometown... that's God's! Even your own body... God created it and it is in His image. It all belongs to Him!'*

So we have no power to swear something by what doesn't belong to us. But instead, as representatives of God and caretakers of what He owns, we are to represent God's character of integrity and honesty by being honest ourselves. When we say something, we should mean it. When we say we will do something, we should back it up by doing what we said. This is what God is like! He always comes through with His promises and does what He says. He is faithful and honest in all things.

This is really good news! Because even when we fail to be faithful and honest with our words, we have a God who is faithful and honest when He promised that we can have forgiveness in Jesus and we can have the power to change in the Spirit.

**Dialogue Questions:** *[you may use some or all]*

- Why do you think honesty is important to Jesus? Or to the Father?
- What are some of the ways we know God is honest and faithful in all He does?
- How can we resemble God's character in this way by meaning what we say and being someone people can count on?

**Breakout Time**

**Pray:**

God we thank you for being faithful and true in all you do. Thank you for fulfilling all your promises through Jesus and giving us the power to become more like him through your Spirit. Help us to show others what you are like by our faithfulness and honesty. Amen.


**Craft:**

- Coloring sheet attached

**BLESS Activity**

This week, ask your family how you can practice the **Speak** rhythm.

Think about the words you say to others this week. Do they represent Jesus? Do they reflect the faithfulness of God? When you tell someone you are going to do something this week, pay attention to whether they take your word or ask you to promise or swear it. Ask them how you can be more of a trustworthy person so they believe you when you say something next time.

A black and white line drawing of an open book. The book is the central focus, with text on its pages. Above the book is a sun with rays, and to the left is a large cloud. Below the book is a rainbow with several bands. The entire scene is set against a background of smaller, scattered clouds.

The Lord  
will do what  
he says.

Isaiah 38:7