



Community Groups are used extensively as the primary vehicle for discipleship at The Gathering and run on a quarter system. There is one in the fall, one in the winter and one in the spring. During the summer weeks we don't meet in Community Groups but we still offer the Growth Guides as a tool to help you grow personally. The Growth Guides are designed to help you dig deeper into the weekly sermon on your own or with your family and are available each week along with the note sheets at church as well as online.

USE THIS GUIDE TO PREPARE FOR THE DISCUSSIONS IN COMMUNITY GROUP.

Consider...

Use the summary and discussion below to review and apply this week's message:

The Big Idea

We need to keep our word because we represent a King who keeps His.

Message Summary

As He's done throughout the Sermon on the Mount, today's passage again finds Jesus raising the standard of living for His followers (that's us!). This time, He's after lives of truthfulness and integrity. Instead of making oaths to look good and then breaking them whenever they became inconvenient, Jesus instructs us to simply say what we mean and mean what we say. No swearing necessary!

Discuss

Use the following questions to review and apply the points learned in the message.

- Have you ever broken a promise? Had someone break a promise to you? What did you feel in those situations?
- What happens when we don't keep our word?
- Does Jesus' statement about oaths prevent you from taking an oath in a courtroom? Read Hebrews 6:17-18. God didn't take an oath because sometimes He lies, but rather in order to help men believe. How does this help shed light on the issue?
- Read Psalm 51:6. Why do you think we're so afraid to uncover our innermost selves? How does having truth at our core help with that? Does this mean that we should allow everyone in at that level of intimacy? Read Psalm 139:23. Who needs that level of access to our hearts the most?
- Read Hebrews 4:12-13. What is "able to judge" ("fit for judging, skilled in judging") our hearts? What do we need in order to allow the truth of God's word to uncover everything in our inmost parts? How does that make you feel?
- Close out by discussing any insights you gained as you worked through the five "under the fat" questions from the end of the message. Pray for one another as we all continue to seek truth in our inner parts.
 1. Can I be trusted?
 2. How much weight do my words carry?
 3. Do I need to add to my promises in order to make them more believable?
 4. Can I deliver what I promised?
 5. Am I partnering with the Father of truth or the father of lies?