

Small Group Questions

Sermon Based Small Groups – May 22, 2011

Adult Education – Woodbury Community Church
Woodbury, Minnesota

Sermon Title: To Tell The Truth

Sermon Series: The Sermon on the Mount: Living as Citizens in the Kingdom of Heaven

Pray: Each week, we want to take time to lift up one another's prayer concerns. True Christians pray for one another. Take some time at the beginning of your small group time to pray for each other. Be real with each other. If you are hurting, take the risk and share how you are feeling with the group. If you have something that God has blessed you with this week, share it. Give Him the glory for what He is doing in your life. Record the prayer requests in the "Notes" section on the right of this page, and make a commitment to pray for the needs of the people in your group throughout the week.

Ice Breaker: Play the old game, "Two Truths and a Lie" with a group of 2-3 people. Each person writes down two true statements and one lie. The goal of the game is to try to figure out which statement is a lie.

Opening Question: How do you feel when someone lies to you? On a scale of 1-10 with 1 being the least and 10 being the most, how much does it hurt when the following person(s) lies to you?

- **Someone you've hired to do work for you**
- **Your parents**
- **A teacher**
- **Your boyfriend/girlfriend or Your Spouse**
- **A friend**

Read: Matthew 5:33-37

Discuss: How is our culture similar to the culture of Jesus' day when it comes to the issue of telling the truth?

What are some common ways that we make oaths today that we don't really intend on keeping?

What is the point that Jesus is trying to make in Matthew 5:34-36?

Notes:

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Why do you think that Matthew chose to include these words of Jesus directly after Matthew 5:31-32?

What do these Old Testament verses teach us about promises?

- Deuteronomy 10:20
- Jeremiah 12:16, 17
- Leviticus 19:12
- Numbers 30:2
- Deuteronomy 23:21

Discuss: Over the years there are Christians who have taken the words of Jesus in Matthew 5:33-37 to mean that you should never take an oath, even in a court of law.

How do the following verses relate to Matthew 5:33-37? What do they teach us about taking an oath in a court?

- Matthew 6:63, 64
- 2 Corinthians 1:23
- Romans 1:9

Read: Matthew 12:34-36

Discuss: What do these verses have to teach us about what we say?

For Further Study: Pastor Brian mentioned an article entitled, “The Seven Levels of Lying.” Take some time to read the article this week at:
<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2011/may/7-levelslying.html?start=1>

Pray: Ask God to help you live a life of integrity, to help you be a person who speaks the truth and who keeps promises.