

1. Taking Oaths - Matthew 5:33-37

2. Rash Oaths

*Saul's Oath – 1 Samuel 14:24-45

*Jephthah's Oath – Judges 11

*Herod's Oath – Mark 6

3. Oaths and your heart

*What happens when we take an oath?

1. When we swear by something we are appealing to the value of an object or person in order to increase someone's belief that what we are saying is true; we are trying to increase the belief we are more willing to tell the truth because we wouldn't want to offend something "sacred"

*When you take oaths, you can be

1. Manipulating others

2. Avoiding conflict

3. Emphasizing truth

4. God's unchangeable nature – Hebrews 6:11-20

*Three of God's promises

1. He will give us a new heart
2. He will never leave us
3. He will come back and get us

Community Group Questions

Read Matthew 5:33-37

1. Why is it evil to swear by something? Why or why not?
2. When have you taken oaths in your life and what were your motivations for doing so?

Look up the following stories

1. Saul's oath – 1 Samuel 14:24-45

2. Jephthah's oath – Judges 11

3. Herod's oath – Mark 6

1. What commonalities do you see in these three stories?
2. What do you see as their motivations for making these oaths?
3. How can you personally relate to these motivations?
4. What would have been sound advice to give these three men so these acts didn't happen?

Read Hebrews 6:11-20

1. Why is it different when God swears by Himself than when we take oaths?
2. Is it encouraging to you to see God swear by Himself? Why or why not?

What are some ways you can cling to God's promises for you? (give you a new heart; never leave you; coming to get you)

