

Speak Truth

SERMON NOTES AND DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

I. Introduction: Living in the age of Truthiness

Question: Why do we lie?

II. Refuse to Manipulate

a. The OT guidance

b. The Problem with Oaths

i. Now you can trust me, really

ii. Let me use God to get my way

III. Speak Truth: Let your “yes” be “yes” and your “no”, “no.”

a. Recognize it is a heart issue

b. Choose honesty (with love)

c. Keep your word even when it hurts

d. Build deep friendships

IV. Conclusion:

Living by Faith: Trusting Jesus with the outcome

Discussion Questions

Sharing Life Together

1. Share a time when you felt betrayed by someone's dishonesty. What was the hardest part of the betrayal?
2. Share a time when you were impressed with someone's integrity.

Reflecting on the Message Together

1. Why does Jesus do away with oath-making?
2. Is there a difference between an oath and a promise? Should we be promise-makers but not oath-makers? Why or why not? Try to explain your answer in light of biblical teaching.
3. Read James 3:1-12. What do you think is the hardest part of letting your “yes” be “yes” and “no”, “no”?
4. There are three levels of speech: Level 1 - Command/ Request, Level 2 - Description, Level 3 - Persuasion. Why do you think it is good advice to avoid Level 3 language when we pray? When is it appropriate to persuade? What is the difference between persuasion and manipulation?
5. When was a time you kept your word even when it hurt? What do you think is your biggest challenge to have more integrity between what you say and what you do?
6. Do you tend to find it easier to speak the truth or speak with love? Why is it important that we hold together truth and love in our speaking?
7. How did God speak to you through this teaching?
8. How can we pray for one another?