

1. Have you ever been deceived by someone you cared about? How did it make you feel? What made the deception particularly poignant for you?
2. Read Matthew 5:33–37. What is the reduction that Jesus is calling out here? How do the scribes and Pharisees tend to treat the importance of truth-telling?
3. Read Matthew 5:34–36. Why does Jesus list these various forms of oath-taking? How does he debunk the notion that these “lesser” forms are less binding? What’s his logic?
4. In what ways does society tend to avoid letting its speech be simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No.’” Why does Jesus claim this comes from evil?
5. Read Eph 4:15. What do Paul’s instructions about truth-telling add to our understanding about Jesus’ instructions here in Matthew 5?
6. Examine your own life. How have your words been less than truthful? How have you manipulated your words to give the appearance of truth but actually meant something else? First, ask God for forgiveness. Then, ask Him for courage to make things right with the one you’ve deceived.