



Week 2

It may cost you the deal

Main Text: Matthew 5:33-37

Before You Begin:

1. Remind your group of the definition of character: Doing the right thing as God defines right no matter what the cost.
2. Ask: What is your favorite card game? Why?

Discussion Questions:

1. Read **Matthew 5:33-37**
2. Growing up, did you ever hear this Bible text applied? How did you hear it used?
3. Jeremy said that people would take oaths in God's name to denote the truthfulness of their claim. What are some phrases that you heard used today to denote truthfulness or seriousness of a claim?
4. Jeremy explained: The pharisees were making these claims to make people believe they were serious while knowing that the vow wasn't legally binding. This allowed them to go back on their word.
5. In what ways do we see this play out in society? (Think politicians, leaders, bosses, perhaps even you have done this.)
6. Why do you think people are careful to word things in a way that allows them to go back on a promise?
7. The issue isn't the oath, its truthfulness. Why is truthfulness such a big deal for Jesus?
8. How do you think society views people who keep their word no matter what?
9. What could be the negative repercussions of keeping your word?
10. What could be the positive results of being someone who keeps their word?
11. When you find yourself in a situation where you didn't keep your word, or went back on a promise, what should you do?

Next Steps:

1. Identify areas in your life where you are most tempted to manipulate people with empty promises and false wording. Have someone hold you accountable to let your "yes be yes and no be no"
2. Identify situations where you have gone back on a promise. If possible, seek forgiveness from those wronged.