



Deuteronomy 1:34-35

Hebrews 6:16-20

Note: The use of swearing common in our American culture would be called "profanity" in the Bible. That is not what this passage is talking about.

5. How did God instruct the Israelites to swear (Deuteronomy 6:13; 10:20-22)? Why should they swear in that manner?

6. From the time of Moses and the Deuteronomic Law, the meaning and practice of swearing an oath had drastically changed. What are the differences (Matthew 5:33-36; Matthew 23:16-22)?

Matthew 5:33-37

Matthew 23:16-22

7. What do we reflect when we swear by God's name (Matthew 23:23; I Peter 1:16)?

Matthew 23:23

I Peter 1:16

8. Swearing by objects is one way to make a foolish vow. Read Leviticus 5:4-6, Joshua 9:3-14, and Judges 11:30-36. Describe the way each person's vow was made and the consequences that resulted.

Leviticus 5:4-6

Joshua 9:3-14

Judges 11:30-36

9. What special provisions did God give to women regarding making and keeping vows (Numbers 30)? For what reasons? Describe what you learn about vows and the persons involved below.

A. Single Woman (vs. 4-5)

B. Married Woman (6-8)

C. Widow (9-12)

D. Husband's Responsibility (13-15)

E. Are any of these principles from Numbers 30 still valid in light of Ephesians 5:22-24 and 6:1-2?

10. Has there been a time when you have sworn a binding oath before God and witnesses (Matthew 19:6)? What was/is your obligation to keep that oath? What are the only two conditions given for breaking this vow (Matthew 19:9; 1 Corinthians 7:39)?
11. As Christians, we don't need to make binding oaths in order to be a person of integrity. What does James say we need to do (v. 12)?  
"Let your \_\_\_\_\_ be \_\_\_\_\_." How would you say this in your own words?
12. Look in a Bible Concordance and find where Jesus made a similar statement. What commentary does He add to this statement and why (John 8:44)?
13. As someone who has been born of God, what should the pattern of our speech reflect (Zechariah 8:16; Colossians 3:9-10; Ephesians 4:25)?
14. According to verse 12, what will happen to those who are carelessly swearing idle oaths as a pattern of their lives?

## APPLICATION

Not only are we, as Christians to be set apart in keeping our oaths, but also in being people of our word. **Evaluate your commitments.** Are you a woman of your word? Where do you need to make changes that you may reflect the faithfulness of God in your life?

- **Wives:** What areas do you need come under your husband's authority when it comes to making commitments? Are you a wife whose word can be trusted?
  
- **Mothers:** Do you make promises to your children that you cannot keep? Do you ever say, "We'll do that tomorrow" but you are not really sure if you can? How can you change this in order to be a woman of your word?