

# Oaths | Family Worship Guide

*Matthew 5:33-37*

**MAIN IDEA:** Godliness with our speech is when EVERYTHING we say is trustworthy.



## **PREPARATION:**

What do you say when you really want someone to believe what you are saying? Do you add something to make your words sound more truthful? Discuss whether you think this is good or bad.

## **EXPLANATION:**

Jesus continues to preach to the people. He challenged the crowd at the beginning of his sermon by saying the righteousness, or godliness, of the Pharisees is not what they should be seeking. Walking with God means having a godliness greater than the religious teachers and leaders. Jesus also said He will fulfill (meaning perform and accomplish) the law. The greatest example ever of living by the law, being godly, or holy, is Jesus' life. We all need His righteousness. All our efforts to be good and godly end up looking like the Pharisees; fake goodness, phony righteousness, self-righteousness. Their form of fake righteousness was a road to God's judgement and punishment in hell, not to His kingdom in heaven.

So, Jesus began to explain how certain behaviors that everyone thought were okay, were actually not okay with God. We see in this passage that a big concern of God's is whether or not we mean what we say. Do we really mean what we say? Can our words be trusted? From the very beginning of time, men and women have used their words or speech to lead others away from God. When we use our words to deceive someone the Bible calls that lying. People lie for different reasons. Sometimes it is to get out of trouble. Sometimes it is to trick others into doing something we want them to do. Or, it could just be to make ourselves look better. This way of using our words is sinful.

Lying is so common that we often feel we need to make a promise, or oath, when we say something so that others will believe what we say. Have you ever said, "Dude, I promise!" or "I swear this is true." Sometimes we feel the need to make our promise even stronger and say "I cross my heart, hope to die, or stick a needle in my eye!" It's also common to say, "I swear to God." This is what Jesus was referring to when He says, "Do not take an oath at all." Jesus was pointing out that the reason people create oaths is because lying is so common. People's words are so often untrustworthy that we feel we need to make little sayings and special promises to signal when we are about to speak something true! An oath, or special promise, is a way to leave room for dishonesty in our speech. Oaths aren't needed when our speech is always honest and trustworthy. Jesus tells the crowd NO to oaths! Let every word you speak be true and trustworthy. Jesus' followers are marked by honesty. One amazing thing about God is that he has spoken to us! We know he has spoken specific and special words to us. He is the only one whose words are completely, perfectly trustworthy. Jesus' life demonstrated God's perfect word to us. When we listen to Jesus and follow Him, we are forgiven of our dishonesty, given His goodness, AND He makes us more like himself by transforming our words to be always trustworthy.

**CONVERSATION:**

1. What does it mean among kids if you say something with your fingers crossed behind your back? What would Jesus say about this practice?
2. In John 8:44, Jesus speaks about the father of lies. Who is the father of lies? When did Satan tell the first lie on earth? Remember and talk about what happened. Satan's words are NOT trustworthy.
3. What are some reasons why we tend to say things that are not completely true?
4. When someone says "I swear" or "I promise", does it make them sound more or less trustworthy? Why?

**APPLICATION:**

- As someone called to be set apart, be a truthful, honest, and trustworthy person. When you tell a lie you lose trust, and it difficult to gain it back.
- Remember, when you report to someone about something you saw or heard, exaggerating about it is not being truthful or trustworthy.
- If you say you will do something, follow up your words with action.
- Only Jesus is perfectly trustworthy. When you realize the weaknesses in your own ability to keep your word, don't make an oath or extra promises...repent and follow Christ!

**SUPPLICATION:**

Ask God to make the words of your mouth pleasing to Him.

Ask God to keep us from useless oaths and let our yes, be yes, and our no, be no.

**EXULTATION:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OY0FHMME2dU>

Shane & Shane "May the Words of My Mouth" (Originally by Terry Butler)

May the words of my mouth  
And the meditations of my heart  
Be pleasing to You  
Pleasing to You  
May the words of my mouth  
And the meditations of my heart  
Be pleasing to You my God

You're my rock and my redeemer  
You're the reason that I sing  
I desire to be a blessing in Your eyes  
Every hour and every moment  
Lord I want to be Your servant  
I desire to be a blessing in Your eyes

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