

The WayPoint: The power of my words are held by the faithfulness to my vows.

Essential Verse: *Let what you say be simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything more than this comes from evil.* Matthew 5:37

Opening Prayer: Use this prayer or open with a prayer of your own.

Lord, we love You, and we thank You for this group You have brought together. Help each of us to grow in our relationship with You and with one another. We ask You to guide our time together and to help us see our need for Jesus every day. Amen.

Get Conversation Started:

Describe a time you kept a promise that was difficult to keep.

What stood out to you from your Bible reading and the weekend message this past week?

Defining Terms:

Oath - a solemn attestation of the truth or inviolability of one's words

Sexual immorality - Sexual behavior that is contrary to the moral standards of Old Testament Law— e.g., incest, bestiality, homosexually, fornication, and adultery. In our context it primarily but not exclusively refers to adultery— that is, having sexual relations with someone who is not your spouse.

Faithfulness - firm in adherence to promises or in observance of duty, steadfast in affection or allegiance.

Bible Study Focus:

Focus on the following passages from the Reading Plan. Ask for volunteers to read the passages, while the rest of the group follows along. Then, discuss the biblical truths below.

Read Matthew 5:31-37. *What issues is Jesus confronting in this passage? What were the cultural norms that they "had heard it said"? "But I"—what alternatives to the cultural norms does Jesus present?*

What is the value of staying true to your word? What is built up when our word is kept? What gets torn down when we do not?

Read Matthew 23:16-24. *The Pharisees and teachers of the law made loopholes for when promises needed to be kept and when they could be broken--identify their legalistic loopholes.*

In verses 19-22, how does Jesus address their loopholes? What does Jesus call His followers to (v.23)?

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What situations cause us to consider making excuses or going back on our word?

Read Matthew 19:3-9. *What exception does Jesus give for divorce? What sort of reasons does this exception exclude?*

Compare 1 Cor. 7:10-16; 8:9. How does Paul explain Jesus' teaching? What words of wisdom does Paul bring to this discussion?

*How does faithfulness to our word, even when it is difficult, bring hope to our marriages?
How does faithfulness encourage commitment in marriages?*

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What example of faithfulness has God given us?

Why is faithfulness to our vows and in our marriages so important?

What are some habits of integrity that can be adopted whether married, divorced, or single?

Your Concerns:

What are your biggest concerns for the week ahead?

God Moments:

Where have you seen God at work in, through, or around you in the previous week?

How can we pray for each other this week?

Prayer:

Lift up the concerns shared, and ask God to guide us to love and serve Him and others, so that He may be praised in all things.