



Sermon Outline

Key verses

Do not swear at all...

All you need to say is simply "yes" or "no;" anything beyond this comes from the evil one.

Matthew 5:34, 37

Four reasons to not swear oaths

1) Jesus commands us not to swear

2) We don't keep our promises

3) Swearing brings God into our deceit

4) Swearing can have irreversible consequences

I tell you that everyone will have to give account on the day of judgment for every empty word they have spoken.

Matthew 12:36

Above all, my brothers and sisters, do not swear – not by heaven or by earth or by anything else. All you need to say is a simple "Yes" or "No." Otherwise you will be condemned.

James 5:12

SWEARING OATHS

MARCH 16
DISCUSSION GUIDE

Opening Thought *(set the context for the discussion)*

Jesus sets high standards in the Sermon on the Mount. These help us see our need for a Savior. And as we depend on Christ, his teachings direct us in godly living, as he empowers us! Today we are focusing on Christ's teaching about swearing oaths. He calls us to use our words wisely. This was something that the early Anabaptists emphasized. Even when coerced, they would not swear, but simply let their yes be yes and their no be no.

Ice breaker *(get people talking – 5 minutes or less)*

- What is a movie quote that you repeatedly use?

Dig Deeper *(look for insights from your group and try to stress Biblical truth)*

- In Psalm 141:3 David prays, "Set a guard over my mouth, Lord; keep watch over the door of my lips." How would your life change if you prayed that prayer?
- Our word should mean something. Have you heard the expression "my word is my bond?" What does it mean.
- Why is it so hard to follow through on your word?
- What happens when we fail to follow through on our word?
- How have you seen a lack of truth cause pain in a relationship?
- Read Ephesians 4:25-29. What stands out to you?
- Notice the theme in verses related to swearing: "the evil one," "judgement," "you will be condemned." What do you make of this?
- How do you make decisions about what to say "yes" to and what to say "no" to?
- John shared 4 reasons to not swear oaths. Which one is most impactful to you? Why?

Closing *(wrap it up with a word of encouragement)*

Ask the Lord to set a guard over your mouth. Ask him to help you be a person who follows through on your word. And thank him that he always fulfills his promises!

For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. (2 Corinthians 1:20)