

# CityLight Church

## Lighthouse Group – Student Preparation Handout

### Tell the Truth

Matthew 5:33–37

### Main Idea

Because every word is spoken under God’s authority, kingdom citizens are called to radical integrity where their “Yes” is “Yes” and their “No” is “No.”

### Before You Come

- Read Matthew 5:33–37 slowly at least twice.
- Ask God to reveal any areas where your speech lacks integrity.

### Reflection Questions

#### **1. The “Little White Lie”**

Why do we often feel that “little white lies” are justifiable or “not that big of a deal”?

*Dig Deeper: Is a lie still “little” when we consider that it is spoken to a God who is the source of all truth?*

#### **2. The Danger of Loopholes**

In Jesus' day, people swore by the temple or the altar to avoid using God’s name directly. What are the modern-day “loopholes” we use to sound committed without being fully bound?

*Dig Deeper: How does “playing it safe” with our words actually damage our integrity over time?*

#### **3. Divine Accountability**

Jesus points out that we can't even control the color of a single hair on our heads. How should our lack of control over the future change how we make promises?

*Dig Deeper: Read Matthew 12:36. How does the reality of giving an account for "every careless word" change your perspective on your daily conversations?*

#### **4. The Cost of Appearance**

In the story of Ananias and Sapphira, the issue wasn't the amount of money they gave, but the image they tried to project. Where are we most tempted to "insinuate" we are doing better than we actually are?

*Dig Deeper: Peter told them they hadn't just lied to men, but to God. How does that shift the weight of "faking it" for you?*

#### **5. Radical Integrity in the Everyday**

What does "letting your yes be yes" look like in your current workplace or within your family?

*Dig Deeper: John Stott suggested that if our kids ask us to "promise," it's a sign they've learned they can't fully trust our "yes." Does this convict you or encourage you?*

#### **6. The Freedom of Truth**

Mark Twain said, "If you tell the truth, you don't have to remember anything." How is honesty actually a form of freedom?

*Dig Deeper: How does living with integrity allow "people to relax" when you speak?*

#### **7. The Gospel and our Words**

We often fail at this standard. According to the text, why can we have confidence in God's word even when we struggle with our own?

*Dig Deeper: How does knowing you are "forgiven for every careless word" empower you to be more truthful rather than more careless?*

### **Carry It Forward**

What's one thing God impressed on you tonight that you want to carry into this week?

## **Personal Application Before Group**

- Is there a specific commitment you've made that you need to go back and fulfill?
- Is there a 'small' lie you need to confess and correct?

## **Go Deeper (Optional Section)**

- Read Psalm 15: A reflection on the character of one who 'swears to his own hurt and does not change.'
- Study James 5:12: See how the early church continued Jesus' teaching on oaths and integrity.
- Devotional Thought: Spend time this week reflecting on John 8:44 and Ephesians 4:25. Ask God to help you 'put away falsehood' in the smallest areas of your life.