

MOOREBANK AND HAMMONDVILLE ANGLICAN CHURCHES  
QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION AND REFLECTION  
Matthew 5:33-37

1. In what sorts of situations do you lie, and how do you justify it?
2. What do you think was the aim behind the OT instruction that Jesus refers to?
3. According to the oath-making here and in Matthew 23:16-22, how were oaths being used?
4. Why do oaths exist in the first place (and modern contracts, for example)? What does their existence teach us about humans and truthfulness?
5. Why is Jesus so emphatic about not using oaths at all? What is he really demanding of his disciples here?
6. What is the connection between using oaths and the Evil one (NIV: “the evil one”/ESV: “from evil”)? (cf John 8:44: Satan the father of lies) How is your dishonesty connected with Satan?
7. How should the reminder that God is ever-present and all things belong to him affect our honesty and sincerity?
8. Proverbs 6:12, 10:18, 20:14, 25:14, 26:18-19 each have the potential to catch us in our dishonesty and lack of integrity. Read these slowly in your group, and pick one or two and discuss:
  - What motivates the dishonesty in this word-picture?
  - Can you identify with this motivation?
  - Can you think of truth about God and/or his deeds/promises that combats this?
9. Is there ever a reason for Christians to lie?
10. Children make oaths (“cross my heart and hope to die”) and wedding couples make vows (“this is my solemn vow and promise”), Jesus himself spoke under oath (Mt 26:63), Paul used oath-like statements (eg: Romans 9:1) and God confirms his promise with an oath (Hebrews 6:16). Is it ever valid for Christians to make an oath?
11. Which of the beatitudes might fuel our obedience in this matter? (5:1-11)
12. Are there heart issues or dishonesty you have to repent of today/tonight?