

James series Study Sheet

Week 14

Text: James 5:12

Message Title: Truthfulness in a Post-Truth World

Read James 5:12

Share some examples you are aware of in which lying and dishonesty have damaged people's lives and the lives of those around them (be sensitive to privacy issues).

Why do the values of honesty and truthfulness seem to have been so eroded in our culture?

When James says 'do not swear' he is talking about taking oaths. Read these OT verses to find out the biblical background on oath-taking:

Numbers 30:2

Deuteronomy 6:13;

Psalm 15:4

Isaiah 45:23

What conclusions can you draw about oath-taking in the OT?

Read Matthew 5:33-37. What is the essence of Jesus' teaching on oaths?

Based on Matthew 5:33-37 and James 5:12, do you think Christians should take oaths (i.e. swear on the Bible as a witness in court)?

Truth-telling

Do you ever find yourself telling small, everyday lies? (Was your answer to that question completely truthful? 😊). Are you honest enough to share examples of ways in which you embellish, fudge or shade the truth?

What steps can you take to become more honest in your everyday life (think not only of your words, but also emails, texts, social media, etc)?

Commitment-making and commitment-keeping

How easy do you find it to make commitments to others? If commitment is something you struggle with, how could you move forward in this area?

How reliable are you at keeping commitments you have made to others?

What are some specific ways that we can close the gap between our words and our actions in this area of commitment keeping?