



Bible Study

Rather than expect one person to be an expert in reading the Bible, we believe the Holy Spirit guides each of us to understand the scriptures together. To that end, this Bible study is designed so that small groups of 3-5 people will prayerfully listen to and discuss the passage. The passage will be read a total of three times by a different person in the group. A focusing question has been provided to guide the conversation after each reading. When the reader has finished allow a few moments for silent reflection. The facilitator of the group will invite someone to share their thoughts related to the question and passage of scripture. That person will invite another in the group to share. Each person can “pass for now,” meaning they are still reflecting on the question; or they may “pass,” meaning they do not wish to share. In settings where there is more than one group, a time should be provided for each group to share a summary of their conversations with everyone.

Matthew 5:33-37

Again, you have heard it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You should not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord.’ But I say to you, do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make our hair white or black. Let your word be ‘Yes,’ ‘Yes,’ or ‘No, no;’ anything more than this comes from the evil one.

Discussion Questions

After first reading: *What word, phrase, or image stands out to you?*

After second reading: *What contrast is Jesus making between swearing oaths and true integrity? How does this kind of integrity contrast our cultural expectations?*

After third reading: *What are you invited to do, be, or change through this passage?*

