

Leader Guide

Simple Gospel

Fall 2025 | Week 8

Message Date 11/2/2025

THE GOAL

It's hard to believe we've reached the final week of our Simple Gospel series! This fall, we've walked verse by verse through Jesus' words on the mountainside—learning that following Him means allowing His truth to shape our hearts, not just our actions. This week, Jesus challenges us again to live with integrity and honor in our commitments—especially in our marriages and the vows we make before God. We'll look at how our relationships reflect His faithfulness and how our words can demonstrate His character.

The goal this week is to understand that living the Simple Gospel means keeping our word, honoring our vows, and pursuing God's vision for marriage as 'one flesh.' Jesus calls us to live with integrity, faithfulness, and humility in every promise we make. These things are not just for marriage but keeping our word in all things.

Thank you for leading so faithfully this fall! Life Groups will take a short break and return in Winter 2026—rest, recharge, and come back ready for all God has ahead.

MY STORY

- 1) If you could swap your alarm clock sound for any noise in the world, what would wake you up every morning?
- 2) If emojis were real creatures, which one would be the most terrifying?

QUICK REVIEW

- 3) What caught your attention from Sunday's message?

DIGGING DEEPER / TAKING IT HOME

Matthew 5:31–37 (NLT)

31 "You have heard the law that says, 'A man can divorce his wife by merely giving her a written notice of divorce.' 32 But I say that a man who divorces his wife, unless his wife has been unfaithful, causes her to commit adultery. And anyone who marries a divorced woman also commits adultery.

33 “You have also heard that our ancestors were told, ‘You must not break your vows; you must carry out the vows you make to the LORD.’ 34 But I say, do not make any vows! Do not say, ‘By heaven!’ because heaven is God’s throne. 35 And do not say, ‘By the earth!’ because the earth is his footstool. And do not say, ‘By Jerusalem!’ for Jerusalem is the city of the great King. 36 Do not even say, ‘By my head!’ for you can’t turn one hair white or black. 37 Just say a simple, ‘Yes, I will,’ or ‘No, I won’t.’ Anything beyond this is from the evil one.”

4) What is Jesus emphasizing in these verses about divorce and vows?

He’s calling His followers to honor commitments made before God and to treat marriage and promises as sacred.

5) What heart issue is Jesus confronting here?

He’s confronting a tendency to look for loopholes—to avoid full commitment. Jesus wants truth to start in the heart, not just our lips.

6) Why do you think Jesus connects divorce and oaths in the same teaching?

Both reveal the integrity of our hearts—our willingness to keep our word reflects our relationship with God.

7) How does this passage redefine what faithfulness looks like in relationships?

Faithfulness is not perfection—it’s consistency, honesty, and honoring God in every season, whether single, dating, or married.

8) How does this challenge the cultural view of marriage today?

It reminds us that marriage isn’t just a contract but a covenant before God that calls for faithfulness.

9) Why do you think making vows is such a big deal to Jesus? What might it look like to live with integrity in your everyday commitments?

Because being faithful to our word is the very character of God. We look like Him when we imitate Him here. Being truthful, reliable, and faithful in small things, letting our ‘yes’ and ‘no’ carry real weight.

10) For single people, what principle from this teaching applies right now?

Integrity in your word and purity in your choices. Build a foundation of honesty and trust with God before you ever enter marriage.

CHAIR TIME TOOLS

Think about the following questions and pray through them with Jesus.

- 1) Ask God to show you one area where your integrity needs to reflect His truth more clearly.

- 2) Pray for your relationships—present or future—to reflect God's faithfulness and truth.
- 3) Spend time thanking God for His mercy that restores what's broken and strengthens what's whole.
- 4) Is there something in your marriage that needs attention.