

Keeping Commitments

Icebreaker:

Think of a time when you have had plans or an appointment that, as the time approached, you felt like not going or canceling at the last second to fulfill other obligations.

Ultimately, did you keep this commitment or cancel it?

How did that decision affect yourself and others?

Discussion:

Group engagement Q&A:

How important is it to keep our appointments or commitments?

Does the Bible tell us of the importance of commitment or how we should act when commitments are made?

Scripture References

Matthew 5:37 (English Standard Version)- Let what you say be simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything more than this comes from evil.

We also hear this echoed in *James 5:12 (English Standard Version) - But above all, my brothers, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your "yes" be yes and your "no" be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation.*

Group engagement Q&A:

Have you ever found yourself in a place where you made a commitment to the Lord, but ultimately other plans were given priority over that commitment?

Scripture References

Ecclesiastes 5:4-5 (Amplified Translation) – When you make a vow or a pledge to God, do not put off paying it; for God takes no pleasure in fools [who thoughtlessly mock Him]. Pay what you vow. It is better that you should not vow than that you should vow and not pay.

Proverbs 20:25 (New Living Translation) – Don't trap yourself by making a rash promise to God and only later counting the cost.

Group Engagement Q&A:

How would you describe the pain one might endure by not keeping commitments to oneself, a brother or sister in Christ, or to God?

Do you think that there are rewards for honoring your commitments even when it's inconvenient or uncomfortable?

Scripture References

We find in scripture that keeping our commitments is a reflection of God's character.

2 Corinthians 1:17-20 (New Living Translation)

You may be asking why I changed my plan. Do you think I make my plans carelessly? Do you think I am like people of the world who say "Yes" when they really mean "No?" As surely as God is faithful, our word to you does not waver between "Yes" and "No." For Jesus Christ, the Son of God, does not waver between "Yes" and "No." He is the one whom Silas, Timothy, and I preached to you, and as God's ultimate "Yes," he always does what he says. For all of God's promises have been fulfilled in Christ with a resounding "Yes!" And through Christ, our "Amen" (which means "Yes") ascends to God for his glory.

What Paul authors here is an effort to put the church on track; what we commit to should be carried out as if we are Jesus ourselves. As believers, we should be trustworthy and not bring dishonor to the gospel. As we strive to be more Christ-like and be better in all things, we must learn to let Jesus take the lead of our commitments also. Being centered in Christ is a priority we should make every day; even our schedule and appointments should be prayerfully considered. Remember that when you commit to an agenda with a "yes," you represent the kingdom with your follow-through. When you say "no," you should do it with agape love and heartfelt consideration so that you do not deter others from the kingdom agenda.