



STUDY GUIDE

April 28, 2024

Message Series:

You've Heard it Said

Message Title:

A Simple 'Yes' or 'No'

Teaching Pastor:

Elijah Schiarelli

Warm-up/Icebreaker: (10 min.)

What's something new you've learned about yourself in the last three months?

OR a silly one....If you could go back in time 10,000 years ago and make a cave painting to confuse everyone in the future, what would you draw?

Pray:

Dear Lord, like the disciples did many years ago, we sit at Your feet and are eager to learn. Please give us new understanding of Your truths. Holy Spirit, we trust that You are at work and we are grateful that You give us hope, wisdom and guidance so that it will be possible to live into Your plan for our lives. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Get Started: (30 min.)

Read Matthew 5:33-37.

- Can you think of a time when a simple 'yes' has had a significantly positive impact upon your life?
- In general, what is your default reaction or initial gut-reaction to most invitations or opportunities, 'yes' or 'no'? Why?
- How do you make decisions about what to say 'yes' to and what to say 'no' to?
- What is the earliest situation in your life that you can remember in which you didn't do what you said you were going to do and disappointed someone? What were the implications?

*"Do what you say you're gonna do, fulfill your commitments, and be who you say you're gonna be. It's a simple message with major implications: implications like the health of our relationships, the status of our reputation, and the level of respect others have for us all hinge on you and I getting this right. More importantly than that for people who follow Jesus: His relationships, reputation, and respect hang in the balance as well - keep in mind, as followers of Jesus, our purpose is to become like Jesus. Therefore, we represent Jesus to the rest of the world; a world full of people who seem to resent each other more than ever and for sure don't trust each other. So, if we go around doing the opposite of what Jesus is telling us here, not only will they lose respect and trust for us, but also who we claim to be like: **Jesus**. Jesus will be the one folks have trust issues with, and it would be impossible for me to overstate just how detrimental that is. It is critical that we get this right."* - Pastor Elijah Schiarelli

Watch and Discuss Video: (Running time 16 min./15 min. discussion)

Pastor Elijah talked about withholds, which are feelings left unsaid. This results in inauthenticity and in the end erodes trust. For example, if you never tell your grandmother that you don't like her famous pineapple cake, then you will end up placing yourself in situations where to continue to lie.

- Share a situation in which you have withheld information or feelings?

Read Revelation 3:15-16.

- Imagine Jesus sitting down at a table with you for a cup of coffee and you serve him lukewarm coffee. Describe the conversation.

Reflect and Commit: (15 min.)

Read Proverbs 11:3 & 21:3.

- Take a moment to reflect on the wisdom in these verses, discuss and try to rephrase the intent in your words.
- *What is your “YES”? What are the few things, in this season, that you are called to do well?*

*“We must put Jesus’ words into action, because a world devoid of trust needs people who they can actually trust. A world full of people longing for truth, purpose, and hope desperately needs what Jesus offers them, and we can give it to them! We have to do the things we say we’re going to do, fulfill our commitments, and be the people we say we’re going to be, over and over again. Once Christ-followers figure this out and make it a part of who they are, everything will change. I know, I know. That sounds idyllic and impossible. But it’s really not that hard: **All you need to say is simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’**” - Pastor Elijah Schiarelli*

Read 2 Corinthians 8:21.

Gather prayer requests and pray. (5-10 min.)

Pray:

Dear Lord, please increase the validity and intensity of our “yes” and “no” understanding that our authenticity sheds light on who Jesus is. Help us to delight in the opportunity to represent you well; and may our identity be grounded in this important purpose and plan You have for us. We trust You and love You. We pray in the powerful name of Jesus. Amen.