

TAKING IT HOME

1. As you look back, there are probably periods of your life or situations in your life where you have said “No” to God. What hope does this parable give you?
2. Based on this parable, what would you tell friends or workmates who come up to you and say, “I could never have a relationship with God – you don’t know some of the bad things I’ve done”?
3. One goal of your involvement in a Growth Group is that you will have partners around you who will help you make good decisions for Jesus. Write down some of your personal desires/hopes for your Growth Group experience this quarter.

4 DUMB THINGS SMART PEOPLE DO
They Promise More Than They Can Deliver
Matthew 5:33-37

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4 DUMB THINGS SMART PEOPLE DO: #3 – THEY PROMISE MORE THAN THEY CAN DELIVER

Matthew 5:33-37

SAYING “YES” TO OPPORTUNITIES

1. PROMISE _____

“It is better not to vow than to make a vow and not fulfill it.” Ecclesiastes 5:5

“It is a trap for a man to dedicate something rashly and only later to consider his vows.” Proverbs 20:25

“Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Will he not first sit down and estimate the cost to see if he has enough money to complete it? For if he lays the foundation and is not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule him, saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’” Luke 14:28–30

2. DELIVER _____ PROMISE

God, the Father and Son:

“The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it.” 1 Th 5:24

“If we are faithless, he will remain faithful, for he cannot disown himself.” 2 Timothy 2:13

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.” Colossians 3:23–24

Growth Group Homework

For the Week of January 16, 2011

MY STORY

1. Why do you think it is so tempting for people to say “yes” quickly to opportunities?
2. Have you ever gotten yourself into a situation where you quickly said “yes” to an opportunity only to regret it later? What happened, and what do you wish you did differently before saying yes?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. This week we’ll look at a parable Jesus told about people promising and delivering. Read **Matthew 21:28-32**. If you were the man in this story, what do you think you might have thought or felt when your first son said, “No”?

What would you have thought later when the first son actually did go work in the vineyard?

2. Let’s ask the same questions for the second son. What would you have felt at first, then what would you feel later when the other son did not go work?

3. Jesus asks, “Which of the two did what his father wanted?” And they answered, “The first,” even though the first son said “no” at first. Why do you think the first son gets the compliments here?

What does this tell us about our promises and our actions?

4. Someone once said it’s easier to go from “no” to “yes” than it is to go from “yes” to “no.” What do you think about this?

5. Jesus explains the meaning of the parable in verses 31-32. He is speaking to chief priests and the elders when he tells this story. Which son represents the “tax collectors and prostitutes” in this parable? Which son represents the “chief priests and elders”?

What do you think Jesus’ point is?