

The Road Home

Week 1 | Rejecting Religion

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus didn't come to start a RELIGION OF RULES but to establish a RELATIONSHIP OF LOVE.

GOAL OF THE GROUP

For this series, we know that many people do not have a problem with God as much as they do organized religion. Many people view the relationship with God being "religious." We hope that we move away from the "doing" of religious activities for activities sake but learn what it means to pursue a relationship and how that could change of our view of God, faith, and relationships with others! And maybe, others would take notice!

SCRIPTURE

Romans 3:20, Galatians 3:19, 21-27, Romans 5:10, Ephesians 2:8-9

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Share:** When did you do something out of obligation and how did it feel? Did you parents make you get dressed up for a party? Did you have a family tradition that you reluctantly participated in?
- Is there a defining moment in your life where you faced difficult or heartbreak times and asked the question "why"? If so, how did that situation shape you and your relationship with God?
- Read & Discuss:** The writer, the Apostle Paul, built his life on following rules. He kept the rules, enforced the rules and used the rules to keep other people "in line." Once he had started a relationship with Jesus he understood that Jesus didn't come to start a RELIGION of RULES but to establish a RELATIONSHIP of LOVE! And because of that he lets everyone else know! Read all 3 of these scriptures: Romans 3:20. Galatians 3:19, 21-27 and Romans 5:10 and discuss:
 - What do you notice about the themes around the LAW (or rules) vs. RELATIONSHIP (grace)?
 - Why do you think Paul was pointing to the freedom found in Jesus instead of rules?
 - How can you relate to this? Has there ever been a time when you found rules to be suffocating?
 - Why do you think Jesus wants a relationship with more than rules?
 - How would a relationship with Jesus lead to more freedom in our life and more peace in our hearts?
- Discuss this statement: **The moment Jesus died on the cross the focus went from CONDITIONAL RULES to an UNCONDITIONAL FRIENDSHIP**
 - Read Ephesians 2:8-9 - *For it is by **grace** you have been saved, through **faith**—and this is **not from yourselves**, it is the gift of God— **9 not by works**, so that no one can boast.*
 - How is this message of good news healthy for us to leave out? How does this change our relationship with God?

The moment Jesus died on the cross the focus went from **CONDITIONAL RULES** to an **UNCONDITIONAL FRIENDSHIP**



TRY THIS

- Pray for each other this week. Write down the prayer requests and put them in a bowl and have everyone pray for one other person in the group.**
- Choose 1 step to take towards Trusting God in the midst of a difficult situation today!**