

Summer With Jesus: Week 1 LIFE Group Study – Jesus Fulfills the Law

Checking In

Welcome everyone to this new series. Introduce any new members to the group. As a child what family rule did you often break?

Memory Verse

“...God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross.”

Colossians 2:13b-14

NOTE: THERE IS NO GROUP VIDEO FOR THIS SERIES

FACILITATION FOR THE GROUP LEADER

NOTE: *Use the following as a guide as you prepare to lead your group time. Use what is helpful for you to facilitate the discussion. Discovery questions and the group guide follow this material:*

The sermon on the mount was the most complete and compelling talk ever given. Jesus the master communicator uses every speaking tool to touch the human heart with his message of life change. Jesus did not communicate to merely inform but to transform the heart of those who listened.

The crowd to which he spoke was varied. There were desperate folks, religious, folks, and curious folks. He spoke to everyone effectively. Some were angered, some were convicted, all were influenced.

He introduced the sermon with a brilliant motivation by proclaiming blessings. Everything else was cantered around these opening declarations.

This past weekend we discussed salt and light. Jesus said...you are! Jesus believes in us far greater than we believe in ourselves. He then turns and challenges us to rethink what righteousness really means. That will be our focus today:

***“Don’t think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or one stroke of a letter will pass away from the law until all things are accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commands and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven. But whoever does and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven.*”**

Matthew 5:17-20

- *Jesus was not doing away with the instructions regarding how we should live. He was intentionally showing us how we need His power to help us live.*
- *The Jewish leaders had lowered expectations for themselves and raised expectations for others. They had a verbal teaching they created to make them look better and more spiritual. It was called “The Tradition of the Fathers”. Religious leaders would make up rules on the fly and those unwritten rules would become expectations thus keeping people in bondage.*
- *This is still true today. There is a movement called “The Hebrew Root”. This is a returning to Jewish legalism because Jesus said:*

“Don’t think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or one stroke of a letter will pass away from the law until all things are accomplished.”

- *This false teaching is designed to keep people in bondage to the Jewish legalism and become spiritual elitist.*
- *Jesus wanted to “write” the law on our hearts! He was not into keeping with legalism.*
- *Jesus sets a higher standard of saying unless your righteousness surpasses the scribes and Pharisees....they were into external expressions Jesus is into heart change.*
- *Jesus said if you break one law you’ve broken them all. Paul said it this way in Romans 7:*

“What should we say then? Is the law sin? Absolutely not! But I would not have known sin if it were not for the law. For example, I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, do not covet. And sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, produced in me coveting of every kind. For apart from the law sin is dead. Once I was alive apart from the law, but when the commandment came, sin sprang to life again and I died. The commandment that was meant for life resulted in death for me. For sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, deceived me, and through it killed me. So then, the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and just and good. Therefore, did what is good become death to me? Absolutely not! But sin, in order to be recognized as sin, was producing death in me through what is good, so that through the commandment, sin might become sinful beyond measure.”

Romans 7:7-13

- *The law shows me I need Jesus.*
- *The only way we can have exceeded righteousness is to get righteousness outside of our self-efforts. God gives us his righteousness through Jesus.*

“He made the one who did not know sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”

2 Corinthians 5:21

- *Jesus even gives us the ability to live all for Him!*

“I am sure of this, that he who started a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”

Philippians 1:6

Talk about this together and see that life change happens in the heart not in religion!

Discovery Questions

- Why might Jesus have to explain His position on the Law and Prophets?
- How does Jesus “fulfill” the Prophets and “accomplish everything” in the Law?
- What is Jesus’ point about the “least” and the “great”?
- Where does “righteousness” come from?

Putting It Into Practice

Each week Pastor Scott will challenge you to put into practice what you are learning. These challenges will help you take the concepts we are learning deeper into your life and help you with your own personal hope. This week Pastor Scott challenges us to:

1. Practice Obedience

This week make an intentional practice to be obedient in as many situations as possible. Keep a mental note of how you are doing. You may be surprised!

2. Attend Church Gatherings (Live or Online)

Everything we do together over these next weeks is designed to help equip you in your personal day to day lives. Invite a friend or two to experience the Stories of Jesus. Let God show you who may need this message.

Prayer Time

As a group spend some time in prayer together about this new study you are now starting and the grow expectations you may have. Pray that each member of the group will grow personally through this study.

TIP: Use index cards to submit a prayer request for you. Of course, it is always valuable to pray for others (and there are other opportunities to do so) but in the moment make it personal in this first week. Exchange cards by gender so you may be prayed for throughout the week.