

TALK IT OVER

TOXIC TOXIC RELIGION - WEEK 5

Talking through the message during the week helps you turn what God is saying to you into action steps. These talking points, questions and scriptures are designed to help you take the next step. If you are leading a group through this guide, don't feel you have to answer every question. Pick out the questions that will stir up conversation and action among your group.

- Based upon your experiences, how do you view religion?

With your Bible or YouVersion, read Galatians 1:6-10, Matthew 23:25-26 and Luke 18:9-14.

These passages show the dangers of how religion can pervert the gospel by focusing on external things and by promoting spiritual pride.

- How have you seen toxic religion pervert the gospel of Christ?
- Why do you think so many of us base our identity on things other than Christ?
- Describe a time when you demonstrated spiritual pride. How did that pride impact your relationship with Christ?
- How can you remove spiritual pride from your life and develop a spirit of humility?

Read Romans 3:20-22.

This passage tells us that we cannot obtain righteousness by observing the law, but rather through faith in Christ.

- What are some of the dangers of focusing too much on our works rather than focusing on our relationship with Christ?
- What can you do to stay focused on Christ instead of toxic religion?
- The purpose of the law is to show our need for a Savior. What reminds you of your need for a Savior?
- What steps can you take to help you move past the bondage and confusion caused by toxic religion?

NEXT STEPS

Here are some specific things you can do this week that will help keep you break away from the bondage of toxic religion:

If you feel your life has been greatly infected by toxic religion, take time to talk to someone who can help you better understand the truth that only comes through Christ. You might talk to a parent, a friend, a mentor or a pastor. Discuss how toxic religion has impacted your relationship with Christ. Allow them to guide you to the best ways to break away from its bondage.

The best way to break away from toxic religion is to focus on internal things rather than external things. We do this by turning our attention to our relationship with Christ. Set aside additional time this week to pray and read the Bible. Ask God for deliverance from the bondage toxic religion has caused in your life. Use the prayer guide on the right to help you if you are not sure what to pray.

Talk It Over with God:

- Tell God the ways religion has been toxic to your life. Ask for His deliverance from toxic religion.
- Commit to God that you will strive to have a deeper relationship with Him by praying and reading His word.
- Ask God to remove all spiritual pride from your life and instill within you a humble heart.
- Thank God for sending His Son and saving you from your sins. Take time to praise Him in prayer.
- Pray for those you know who are struggling with toxic religion. Ask God to deliver them and show them truth.

This righteousness from God
comes through faith in
Jesus Christ to all who believe.
Romans 3:22 NIV

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