

The Jesus Way

DISCUSSION GUIDE | January 25, 2025

BIG IDEA

Instead of list of rules, Jesus gave His followers a defining ethic.

Message title: Rule, Not Rules

Scripture Reading: Matthew 5:17-18, John 19:30 NIV

Jesus never intended His followers to live by a list of religious rules in order to avoid punishment. Instead, He offered them a defining ethic by which they were to live.

1. *Growing up, was Christianity primarily presented to you as rules to follow or a relationship to live into?*
2. *Why do you think Jesus felt the need to clarify that he did not come to abolish the Law, but to fulfill it?*
3. *How does understanding the Law as purposeful rather than permanent change the way you read the Old Testament?*
4. *In what ways is following Jesus' command to love more demanding than following a list of rules?*
5. *Where are you most tempted to hide behind religious behavior instead of responding to what love actually requires?*

THIS WEEK'S CHALLENGE

Identify one situation this week where following rules would be easier than loving well and intentionally choose the loving response instead.