



# FREEDOM in CHRIST

## DIGGING DEEPER:

(Read Colossians 2:11-23)

Start with a conversation about the word “legalism”. Dictionary.com defines it as: *strict adherence to law or prescription, especially to the letter rather than the spirit*. Pastor Jim gave Tim Keller’s definition: *looking to something besides Jesus Christ in order to be acceptable and clean before God*. Share examples of legalism and times you’ve been guilty of being legalistic.

Brainstorm some things that we can be legalistic about (try not to judge whether they fit on this list or not – start by listing anything your kids might think of). Next, go back through the list and consider each one based on these things:

Do I have the potential of looking to this thing as a way of being acceptable to God?

Do I find myself judging others spirituality by how well they do with this thing?

What are the possible dangers if I allow a wrong perspective of this thing?

Next, discuss the tension with this list. In other words, there are likely things on your list that biblical wisdom would suggest avoiding. How can we be wise and yet not fall into the trap of legalism? For example, a common area of tension in Christendom is alcohol. The bible speaks of drunkenness, but even Jesus served wine at a wedding. How can we be wise with alcohol and not be legalistic?

Finally, Pastor Jim encouraged us to pursue a liberating relationship with Jesus Christ. End with a conversation about the difference between legalism and that relationship with Jesus.

## ACTIVITY:

### Jumping Through Hoops

Items: Hula hoops or plastic tubing that can be shaped into a circle and secured with duct tape. You could also make a rope circle.

Have you ever heard of the phrase “jumping through hoops”? It has typically meant “going to great lengths” or “much effort” in order to accomplish something. We’re going to play a game that represents that.

Directions:

- Form a circle holding hands, separate the hands of any single spot in the circle and have the two whose hands you have separated to reach through hoop to reconnect their hands.
- The object of the game is to pass the hoop around the circle as quickly as possible.
- The hoop must move around the circle in a clockwise direction.
- You may not let go of the hands you are holding at any time. If you lose their grip or let go, the hoop must start back at the beginning again.
- Fingers cannot be used to grip or move the hoop.
- You must remain in a circle. Players bend and twist their bodies through the hoop to get it around the circle.

People jump through hoops on a regular basis. Either to fulfill some kind of requirement to gain acceptance into a group, to meet some kind of standard to satisfy others, or to follow some set of rules.

1. What are some of the hoops in your life that you have had to jump through?
2. Are there hoops we jump through as Christians? In the church? In our home?

Read Colossians 2:20-23:

Hoops and rules could be used interchangeably. Does following the rules give us salvation? How can they hurt our relationship with Jesus? Do they ever help our relationship with Jesus?