



IMMANUEL CHURCH

Conversation Starter: Unhitched
June 10, 2018

Getting Started:

- What were some things that you remember as a child that later on in life you discovered were drastically different than you remembered?
- What is one thing about your view of God or the Christian life that has changed over time?
- Do you tend to be a rule-follower or a rule-breaker? How does that tendency affect your day to day life?

Sermon Discussion:

- Read **Matthew 5:20**. Why do you think it was so hard for the Pharisees to hear these words from Jesus? What about these words challenges you about your own righteousness?
- Read **1 Corinthians 15:1-5 & Romans 1:16**. Based on these verses, what would you say the gospel is, the gospel does, and who it's for?
- Read **Matthew 5:17**. Why is it important that we understand that Jesus came to “fulfill” the law rather than “abolish” it? How does this understanding affect your view of how Christians should view the Old Testament?
- Read **Acts 15:1-35**. Why do you think this issue of whether or not a person had to be circumcised and follow the rest of the Jewish rituals and customs to follow Jesus was such an important issue for the early church? What was at stake? What would have been lost if their decision was different?
- Reread **Acts 15:19 and 1 Corinthians 11:23-26**. Why do you think this underlying premise was such an important decision by the Jerusalem council not just for the church in Antioch, but for us today? How might you be making it unnecessarily difficult for those around you to turn to Jesus? How does knowing that Jesus has followers that come from all different kinds of backgrounds and lifestyles before they turned to him affect your view of God's grace and your view of those who have not yet embraced him as their Lord?

Application Questions:

- The bottom line from this week was **JESUS BROUGHT SOMETHING NEW TO MAKE YOU NEW**. In what ways do you need to “unhitch” your view of God from how you understood him growing up? In what ways do you need to more fully live into the new life that Jesus came to bring? How can you do that this week?

End your time together asking Jesus to help you embrace the new life that he has made possible. Ask him to help you rely upon the Holy Spirit rather than your own efforts as you hold onto for yourself and hold out to others the good news of the new life Jesus makes possible.