

These Digging Deeper questions can be used the week following the Sunday message. You can use these questions for personal growth and development, or as a guide for your family or Connect Group discussions.

Message Recap:

Read Mark 2:24-27.

Religion was created by man so that we could interpret what we believed God wanted from us. Religion made rules for us to follow, which in reality are just checkboxes to mark off to make us feel as though we've covered all our bases. Jesus came to show us a different way. He abolished the rules, and displayed God's priorities. It's this kind of faith that we should emulate. The problem is, we still surround ourselves with rules, both written and unwritten. We say "if we do this", or "if we do that" then we're good Christians. But, are we following Jesus's example? Is living as he did really applicable to our lives? It's time to start breaking some of the religious rules we've been taught to follow...

Pray

Lord, please help us to quit pretending that we're hitting all the items on our Christian "to-do" lists. Help us to remember that you sent your son to Earth so that we could have a living, breathing example of what you expected from us. Help us shed the excuses of being too busy, and instead integrate Jesus's example in our everyday lives. Help us live holistically love, breaking the rules of religion, and mending the broken all around us.

Getting Started

- What's the weirdest or most annoying rule you've ever heard of or had enforced on you?
- When was the last time you broke a rule/law? What were the consequences?

Digging Deeper

1. Take a minute to check out tinyurl.com/diggingdeeper519 and look at the list of examples of laws in the section "Christian Practice."
2. Why do you think they had so many laws and harsh punishments in the Old Testament?
3. Why do you think that Jesus showed disregard for those laws and wanted things to change?
4. What "rules" do you find yourself still living by when it comes to faith?
5. Read Hebrews 8:6-13. What is so radically different between the Old Covenant and the new one. What are the new "rules" that we should now strive to live by?
6. Why do you think we still try to revert to the Old Testament ways of rules and checklists?
7. As a group, how could you help each other live by the new rules and eliminate the religious status quo?

Living Jesus

God sent His Son because he knew that we needed a tangible example of a heavenly love. As humans, we put God into a box that we could wrap our heads around. But, Jesus came and shattered our whole understanding of God. It was such a profoundly different point of view, that so many people in Jesus's time completely missed God right in front of their faces. Are you going to miss it too?

Your Story

Now comes the point where you have to decide how you're going to live. Do you want to feel "safe" living by man-made rules, spending your life trying to check all the boxes? Or, are you willing to get a little uncomfortable and follow the example that Jesus set by living boldly and intentionally every moment?

The direction of your life will follow where you're looking. You are either looking to Jesus, or you're looking to something else. You decide where you're headed. It's not too late to change direction...

Share your personal story with us at severnrun.com/stories.