

Roots

Week Four

Law & Rebellion

Group Discussion Starters

The Purpose of Rules

Last week we saw that God made the first move to reestablish a connection with us through a promise given to Abraham. And now He has given Israel the law He wants them to live by.

- ? What are some misperceptions of God the world has based on the Ten Commandments?
- ? Are there characteristics of God revealed by the Ten Commandments?

There is a wide spread thought in the world that in order to find acceptance with God we must behave ourselves and perform our way into His good graces.

But God never intended for those rules to be a measure of our acceptability. He expressed to Moses that they were not a condition for a relationship; they were the confirmation of one.

- ? What were the rules like in your home as a teenager?
- ? Can you speak from your perspective as a rule maker now?
- ? Besides keeping us safe, what other purpose could God's law as a foundation in our lives serve?

The Problem with Rules

Our stories all have a common theme. We've all rebelled at one point or another. Draw a line and the temptation is to cross it. There's a dark corner inside every heart that would rather know what it's like to break the rules than to live by them.

- ? Do you think of yourself as having a rebellious nature?
- ? What consequences does rebellion cause?

It's easy to see how God's reputation can be linked to enforcing rules; however, the Bible gives quite a different portrayal of His character.

- ? What happens when people get more focused on the rules than the God of the rules?
- ? Have you ever had someone speak into your life when it was off track? What was your response?
- ? Have you experienced God's grace after admitting your rebellion and surrendering to Him?

God has always had the right to face evil with wrath. But He has always had the propensity to show mercy toward those who ask for it.

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Digging Deeper

One good way to delve more deeply into your daily Bible reading is by using the S.O.A.P. method. S.O.A.P. stands for Scripture, Observation, Application, and Prayer.

Find a quiet time and space to read your Bible, preferably at the same time each day. Many people find that reading scripture in the morning helps get their day off to a focused start.

1. Complete the "S" by reading the scripture. Don't just skim through it, but really think about what it means. Imagine what the people involved were experiencing. Write down a verse or two that really stood out to you in your journal.
2. Complete the "O" by writing down observations about the scripture you just read. You may want to write your own summary of the passage, but more importantly, think about what God has to say to you through this part of his word.
3. Complete the "A" by writing down how this Bible passage applies to you right now, in your daily life. Do you see similar situations in your life right now? How can you respond in the way Jesus taught?
4. Complete the "P" by writing down a prayer. This is a personal message from you to God. Just make it honest and heartfelt. Remember that God always listens, and already knows your needs. He just wants to hear from you.

Here are some additional passages in the Bible as well as a few online resources if you want to go deeper:

Day 1

Read Leviticus 16:1-34

Day 2

Read Psalm 105:1-45

Day 3

Read Matthew 22:34-40

Day 4

Read Nehemiah 9:1-37

Day 5

Read Isaiah 1:1-20

Day 6

Read Matthew 23:1-39

Day 7

Read Mark 1:1-8

Memorize Colossians 2:7 – "Let your roots grow down into Him, and let your lives be built on Him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness."