

“Do We Need the Old Testament?”

Discussion Questions

(Matt. 5:17-20)

1. What is one rule you had to follow as a kid (whether in school, at home or elsewhere) that you always had a hard time following?
2. How do you usually respond to rules? Do you tend to be a rule-follower or a rule-breaker?

Ask someone to read Matthew 5:17-20.

3. What did Jesus mean when He said, “I did not come to abolish but to fulfill [the Law]”?
4. How does following God’s Law help us?

Ask someone else to read Exodus 20:1-2.

5. What do these verses reveal about God’s grace?
6. How do you usually feel/react when you realize you have fallen short of God’s standard for living?
7. How can we help each other remember that even when we don’t follow God’s laws we are forgiven and live under grace?

Spend time praying together that God would remind everyone of His grace and forgiveness. Pray that we would all see God’s Law as a gift to help our sanctification, not an impossible standard to live up to.



Leader Notes

(The numbering below corresponds to the question numbers above)

1. Use this icebreaking question as an opportunity to get everyone in the group talking.
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3. Sometimes we think of the word “fulfill” in the context of finishing something, bringing it to its end. But in this verse Jesus is saying that He’s bringing the Law to its intended goal. The goal of the OT law was righteousness—showing us how to have a right standing with God. But no one could perfectly keep the Law...except Jesus. He is now our path to righteousness; He alone makes it possible for us to have right standing with God (see Romans 8:3-4).
4. Though the Law can’t bring us salvation it can help us in the process of sanctification, in that it reveals God’s standard for our lives and points out sin. The Law helps show us the ways in which we should be different from the world.
5. Even before He gave the law, God gave grace to His people by delivering them from slavery in Egypt. He didn’t require them to begin following His rules before He freed them; He freed them so that they could walk in His ways.
6. When we are aware of our sin, we usually feel guilt and shame. It is easy to get stuck in a perpetual cycle of beating ourselves up without ever feeling forgiven and free from the effects of sin. Use this as a chance to help your group members realize if they are stuck in shame right now and begin to help them remember how deeply God loves us even though we are sinful.
7. Help your group think of practical ways we can encourage each other to remember God’s grace. Just showing grace to each other is a really tangible way to do that.

