

LIGHTHOUSE GROUP DISCUSSION HANDOUT

Text: Matthew 5:17–20

Theme: Jesus and the Bible

Icebreaker Question

Have you ever had a rule, instruction, or guideline that felt restrictive at first—but later you realized it was actually for your good? What changed your perspective?

Main Discussion Questions

1. Purpose of Scripture

Jesus says He came to *fulfill* the Law, not abolish it. How does that change the way you think about God's commands?

Dig Deeper:

- Where have you tended to read the Bible more like a checklist than a design for life?
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2. Obedience and Belonging

Why do we so easily slip into thinking that obedience earns God's acceptance, even though we know the gospel?

Dig Deeper:

How does this mindset affect your joy—or lack of joy—in obedience?

3. External vs. Internal Righteousness

Jesus critiques a version of righteousness that looks good on the outside but misses the heart. Where do you see that tension in your own life?

Dig Deeper:

- What's an area where you may obey outwardly while resisting inwardly?

4. Authority of God's Word

Jesus says not even the smallest part of Scripture will pass away. What makes submitting to Scripture hard in our current cultural moment?

Dig Deeper:

- Where do you feel tension between cultural values and biblical authority?

5. Treating God's Word Casually

Verse 19 warns against "relaxing" God's commands. What does that look like practically in everyday Christian life?

Dig Deeper:

- How can we avoid doing this without becoming legalistic or self-righteous?

6. Obedience as Overflow

If obedience is the *fruit* of belonging—not the door—how should that shape the way we encourage one another as a church?

Dig Deeper:

- How should this change the way we talk about sin and growth with one another?
- What would it look like for our church to hold grace and obedience together well?

Personal Takeaway

Come ready to share:

What's one thing God impressed on you from this passage that you want to carry into this week?