



*"Why do you break
the commandment of God
for the sake of your tradition?"*
Matthew 15:1-20 – July 9, 2017
for Life Group & Personal Bible Study

This guide, based on Sunday's sermon, provides additional study and reflection. It is not a full Bible study curriculum, exhaustive commentary, or complete Life Group itinerary, but simply a conversational resource for further growth. Use these thoughts below as you enjoy your Life Group experience or personal time with the Lord!

1) Backgrounds

What kind of background did you grow up in? Was it full of many religious rules, or not many rules at all?

2) Read Matthew 15:1-20 again and think back over Sunday's sermon.

What points of the sermon or this passage resonated with you?
What questions came to mind? How were you challenged?

3) Understanding the Passage

What was wrong with the Pharisees' rules?

In what way did Jesus demonstrate how to tell which religious rules are valid, and which are harmful?

4) Parallel Scriptures

Read 1 Samuel 15: 13-28. Look back at verse 22. What does God most desire? What light does this shed on what we learned in Matthew 15:1-20?

Read Micah 6:6-8. How are we to serve and truly please God? How is this related to the hypocrisy of the Pharisees in Matthew 15?

5) Personal Reflection

What religious rules (not supported by the Bible) have you personally seen pop up in your church experience? How have these affected you? Others around you?

What are some other man-made rules that have crept into Christianity today? Pray together that God would make His truth clear and set people free from unnecessary commands!