

Weekly Study

The Law | Ethan Matott | July 3, 2022

**A note to leaders: there have been two additional questions added to the “grow” and “move” portions of the Weekly entitled ‘Dive Deeper’. This is designed for you to help guide your group into deeper relationship with Jesus and each other, and take an additional step for owning their relationship with Jesus throughout their week.*

START

Go around and check in with your group with the following questions:

- What was the best part of your week?
- What is the most impactful or challenging thing you learned during Sunday’s sermon?
- What did that thing teach you about God? About yourself?

SHARE

This weekend, Ethan kicked off a new series called “Where’s Jesus?” with a message teaching us about how there’s more to the law than meets the eye. Jesus opened up the minds of his disciples to understand that the Bible is one unified story, with everything in the scriptures leading to Him. It can be tempting to view the Old Testament law as intimidating or as a set of rules that were solely applicable to ancient society, but when we look closer at how Jesus came to fulfill the law, he really gave us an invitation to understand how living in accordance with God’s law actually leads to human flourishing and gives us a chance to live freely and lightly.

GROW

Read Luke 24:44-45.

Whether you grew up in church or you’re brand new to reading your Bible, it’s easy to feel as though scripture is fragmented. Everything you’ve ever heard about scripture is intended to point to Jesus and tells one unified story about Him. The Bible was written in a first-century middle eastern world, which is clearly very different from the modern-day, western perspective in which we usually approach scripture. By asking the question, “Where’s Jesus?” we are asking to discover more of the reality of what it means to be a follower of Him and grow in understanding of His character and His nature instead of simply inserting ourselves into the story and asking ourselves what the text teaches us about ourselves.

- What context, if any, did you have going into Sunday about the Law of Moses?

- Does looking for Jesus in the midst of scripture make reading your Bible feel more approachable or more complicated? Explain.
- *Dive Deeper:* Search "bibleproject.com/bible-studies/the-law". Watch the video and answer the corresponding study questions throughout this week and see what new insights come to mind. If you want additional resources, reach out to your leader or coach!

M O V E

Read Psalm 19:7-14.

With a foundational understanding of what the law is and God's design for it, we can now approach a new question: "What if there's something more to the law than what meets the eye?" What do we do with the law? Is what God says worth paying attention to? David's words penned in Psalm 19 indicate that there is far more to the law than we ever thought. We have an invitation to abundant life and freedom by living in obedience to God's law.

Ethan talked to us about the difference between licentiousness and legalism. We all fall on one side of the pendulum. If you are a licentious person, you live with a 'license of grace' and ask the question, "How far can I stretch the grace of God?" There is truth to be found in that where sin abounds, grace abounds all the more (Romans 5:20) — but it does not change the fact that as God's people, we are called to be consecrated unto Him. In the same way, legalistic people are asking the question, "How far does grace actually stretch? Is it sufficient for that sin... that person... that situation?" There is too much emphasis placed on doing and earning.

Both sides are asking the wrong questions and neither group is living in freedom. Licentious people are enslaved to sin; legalistic people are enslaved to the law.

- What side of the pendulum do you tend to fall on between legalism and licentiousness?
- Regardless of which side of the pendulum you find yourself, what step of obedience do you need to take in your discipleship to Jesus? How would this bring more freedom in your life?
- *Dive Deeper:* Depending on which side of the pendulum you fall on, memorize either Galatians 5:6 (legalism) or Galatians 5:13 (licentiousness). When we intentionally plant the word in our minds, it will bear fruit in our lives!

P R A Y

Spend some time sharing prayer requests. If you are in a co-ed group, consider breaking up into separate groups to share more freely.

- Ask the Holy Spirit to open your eyes and your heart to desire to seek Jesus above everything else, not only as you read scripture but in every part of your daily life.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to give you the discernment to know which side of the licentiousness/legalistic pendulum you fall on and wisdom for how to step into more freedom this week.