



Community Groups are used extensively as the primary vehicle for discipleship at The Gathering and run on a quarter system. There is one in the fall, one in the winter and one in the spring. During the summer weeks we don't meet in Community Groups but we still offer the Growth Guides as a tool to help you grow personally. The Growth Guides are designed to help you dig deeper into the weekly sermon on your own or with your family and are available each week along with the note sheets at church as well as online.

USE THIS GUIDE TO PREPARE FOR THE DISCUSSIONS IN COMMUNITY GROUP.

Consider...

Use the summary and discussion below to review and apply this week's message:

The Big Idea

The point of the Law was to point to the King

Message Summary

In our text this week, Jesus warns us about 2 ways that we can miss the point of the Law or the Prophets (think Old Testament): we can minimize it or we can maximize it. When we minimize it, we tend to have a relationship with no rules and expectations, and when we maximize it, we tend to have a lot of rules and expectations with no relationship. The only way to not miss the point of the Law is to realize that Jesus finalized it. He fulfilled (literally, "to fill to the top or the brim") the requirements of the Law that were necessary because we were sinful. By trusting what Jesus did, we are able to live righteous lives at deeper levels free from the burden of trying to accomplish what He already did.

Discuss

Use the following questions to review and apply the points learned in the message.

- What is your view of the Old Testament? Do you avoid it or find it difficult—or do you enjoy and profit from reading it?
- "All of the Old Testament remains normative and relevant for Jesus' followers, but none of it can rightly be interpreted until one understands how it has been fulfilled in Christ." How could this statement radically change the way we read books in the Old Testament?
- What can you do to expand your understanding and appreciation of the Old Testament?
- What words come to mind when you hear the word "rules?" Would you consider yourself a rule breaker or a rule maker?
- Have you ever encountered a ridiculous rule? How did you respond?
- What role does trust play in following or not following a rule?
- One meaning of the Greek word translated "fulfill" is "to cause God's will (as made known in the law) to be obeyed as it should be, and God's promises (given through the prophets) to receive fulfillment." How did Jesus fulfilling the requirements of the Law make it possible for us to obey as we were intended to originally?
- Read Romans 10:1-4 and Romans 3:21-22. How did Jesus end the need for trying to earn righteousness? How does still trying to earn it show that we've missed the whole point?