

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

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Chasing Hope: How Ordinary People Make Extraordinary Disciples

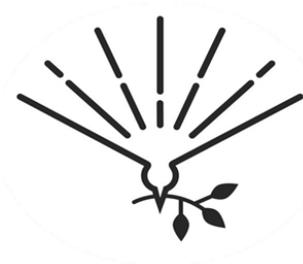
Session 2 - The Legalist: Paul

About Legalism – Day 1

1. What is the definition of legalism?
2. What or who comes to mind when you hear the word “legalist” or “legalism”.
3. Read Colossians 2:20-23. What does this teach us about legalism?
4. What matters are other people generally legalist about?
(discuss salvation vs. non-salvation issues)
5. We all have a tendency to have some things that we are legalist about. In what ways are you a legalist?

All about Paul – Day 2 and 3

1. What do we know about Paul from the following verses?
 - a) Philippians 3:4-6



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b) Acts 22:3-5

2. After reading those verses, and in your own words, how would you describe Paul?

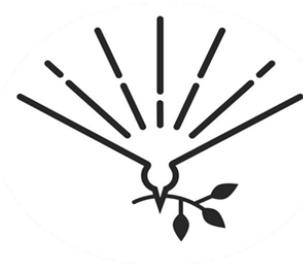
3. Most of the time, even legalists have the best of intentions. What are some of the virtues that can lead a person to become legalistic?

4. What is the problem with wanting to follow the rules and also being willing to put yourself out there in front of others, call out others for not following the rules?

5. Stephen, a follower of Jesus in the early church, was giving a defense of his actions in most of Acts 7. Then read Acts 7:51-8:3.
 - a) What did those around Stephen do to him?

 - b) What was Saul's (Paul's) role in this event?

6. This is clearly an example of rule following, legalism gone wrong. How have you seen legalism go wrong?



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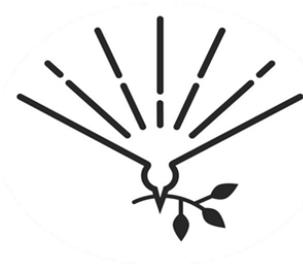
7. How can God use our need for rules and structure to draw us into a closer walk with Him?

Jesus' Response to Legalism – Day 4

1. Read Matthew 22:34-40. What commandments did Jesus leave us with?
2. How does obedience to these commandments look in your life? What drives you to obey these commandments from Jesus?
3. Grace is the opposite of legalism. What do these verses tell us about grace?
 - a. Ephesians 2:8-9
 - b. Titus 3:5-7
4. How does Jesus set us free from legalism?

Paul's Response to Jesus – Day 5

1. Read Acts 26:12-23. What did Jesus tell Paul?



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2. In the same verses, how did Paul respond to Jesus?
3. What qualities or attributes that Paul had before his conversion are now being put to use for God's kingdom?
4. Is there something you need to leave behind or change the direction of in order to be closer to Jesus? What is Jesus telling you right now?
5. How are you responding to Him?

Day 6

1. Can some form of legalism (or even religious zeal) be a good thing when following Jesus?
2. How can it go wrong?
3. Even if they are now pointed in the wrong direction, what qualities do you have that God is using / can use for His kingdom?