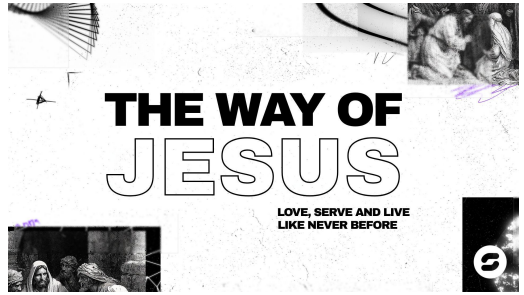


STUDY GUIDE

November 16



STAY IN THE LOOP

Announcements

- Calling all moms with young children - come enjoy a relaxing morning to sit, sip coffee, and connect with other moms while we take care of your little ones! Join us Saturday, November 22 at 9am, and don't forget to invite your friends! (Kemptville)
- Save Your Spot for Jingle Jam! Don't miss out on this awesome family Christmas event, Dec 10 and 12 at 6pm! It's a Christmas Party big enough for the whole family! All are welcome to attend! Register on ChurchCenter. (Kemptville)

START WITH PRAYER

Use this Prayer Prompt

Praise God for sending Jesus to fulfill the law and offer us grace, cleansing, and transformation of our hearts. Ask God to examine our hearts and reveal areas where we need internal transformation, not just outward obedience. Ask the Holy Spirit to help us live in a way that reflects God's character and righteousness in both our actions and our hearts.

STUDY THE BIBLE

Think through and discuss your reactions as you read through Scripture:

Matthew 5:17-22

Romans 3:20

Galatians 3:24–25

Psalm 139:23–24

STIR UP DISCUSSION

How does this week's teaching affect me personally?

1. Jesus said He came not to abolish the law but to fulfill it. What are some ways we still try to “measure up” by our own effort instead of trusting in what Jesus has already fulfilled for us?
2. The law is like a mirror - it shows our flaws but can't clean us. How does this illustration help you understand the difference between conviction and condemnation? When has Jesus' grace felt like “soap and water” in your life - cleansing rather than condemning?
3. Jesus calls us to a righteousness that surpasses the Pharisees - a transformation of the heart, not just outward behavior. What does “heart-level righteousness” look like in everyday life? What are some areas where it's easier to focus on appearances than on inner transformation?
4. The Pharisees looked at the “finger” (the law) instead of what it pointed to (Jesus). What are some modern ways we might focus on the “finger” instead of on the One it points to? How can we keep our eyes on Jesus as the fulfillment of God's Word rather than just on rules or religion?
5. The law reveals God's character - His holiness, justice, and love. How does knowing this change the way you view God's commands today? What step could you take this week to let the Holy Spirit do “heart surgery” and reshape your inner life around Jesus?

STEP INTO ACTION

Let's try to apply this by taking some Next Steps.

1. **Examine your heart, not just your habits.** Take time this week to ask God to reveal areas where you've focused more on outward performance than inward transformation. Pray Psalm 139:23-24 - "Search me, O God, and know my heart."
2. **Let Scripture be your mirror.** Read one of the Ten Commandments or a teaching of Jesus each day. Instead of asking, "Am I doing this perfectly?" ask, "What does this show me about God's character - and my need for Jesus?"
3. **Live out grace, not performance.** When you're tempted to "earn" God's approval or compare yourself to others, pause and remind yourself: "Jesus already fulfilled the law for me." Let that truth shape how you treat others - with grace instead of judgment.