



DISCIPLE GROUP CURRICULUM GUIDE

Matthew Season 4: Old to New

Episode 5: Legalism Kills

May 7 & May 10, 2026

Pastor Joby Martin

Discussion Questions

- Read Matthew 12. What stood out to you this week in the sermon, in the Scriptures and what God revealed to you about Himself?
- **Discover:** Discuss what legalism is and the legalism of the Pharisees.
Deepen: What preferences have you added to God's law or where do you tend to be legalistic and end up missing Jesus and the gospel?
- Share a time when you've been tempted to hunt for an offence in someone rather than an opportunity to know and love them.
- Read Matthew 12:7-8. Discuss what these verses mean and what they show about God's character.
- **Discover:** Read Matthew 12:9-14. What does this show about the Pharisees' priorities?
Deepen: The man's hand wasn't healed until he obeyed Jesus and stretched it out. What's "withered" in your life that you need to stretch out to Jesus?
- Read Matthew 12:31-32. What does it mean to blaspheme the Holy Spirit?
- Read Matthew 12:38-40. Discuss the parallels and differences between Jonah's story and Jesus's resurrection.
- What is Jesus's main point to the Pharisees, and how is it a warning to you?
- It's trendy for online commentators to state that Jesus never claimed to be God. Discuss the three different times in Matthew 12 where Jesus is saying, "I am God."

Action Step: 1. Ask Jesus to reveal any areas of legalism, pride or self-righteousness in your heart and confess them to Him honestly. 2. Pray for God to help you love people with mercy instead of judgment and look for one opportunity this week to love someone the way Jesus loves you.