

YOU'RE
NOT
FAR

The text 'YOU'RE NOT FAR' is written in a bold, hand-drawn, black font. The words are stacked vertically. A horizontal arrow is drawn under the word 'NOT', pointing to the right.

Week 3: Flipping the Script

Whether it's school, sports, or religion, when we focus only on the rules, it can be difficult to remember the overall purpose of something. Jesus reminds us that when we focus so much on the letter of the law, we may forget why the law was written in the first place.

Discussion Questions

1. What role, if any, did rule-keeping play in your religious experience?
2. Were you left with the impression that the rules were more important than the people expected to keep the rules?
3. **Read Mark 2:15–17.**
 - What stands out to you?
 - What do you think Jesus meant by “healthy” and “sick?”
4. **Read Matthew 11:28–30.**
 - What stands out to you?
 - What does this invitation imply about the outcome of following Jesus?
 - What does the term “yoke” imply?
5. Is there an area of your life where you are emphasizing rules over people? How would your spouse, friends, or kids answer that about you?

Changing Your Mind

If your view of religion emphasized rules over a relationship with God and others, you're not alone. But Jesus came to introduce a new way of thinking. God loves you more than he loves rules. If you are a sinner, you are invited to follow Jesus. If you are a follower, you are invited to yield to Jesus.

The kingdom of God is near, and everyone is invited to participate.