

BIG IDEA

Jesus has not come to reform religion, but replace it.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What have you heard people say is their ticket into heaven? Have you ever thought the same thing? How did it change for you?

No one hangs out with scum – Read Mark 2:13-17

2. Read Luke 7:29-30 and discuss what made the difference between accepting God's Word and rejecting it.
3. When Jesus says, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick." What does he mean? How have you experienced this in your life?
4. Who would be considered "the tax-collectors and other disreputable sinners" of our day?
5. It's easy to nod our heads and say we should befriend people who others would consider scum. Why do you think it is so difficult? What would this look like in your life?

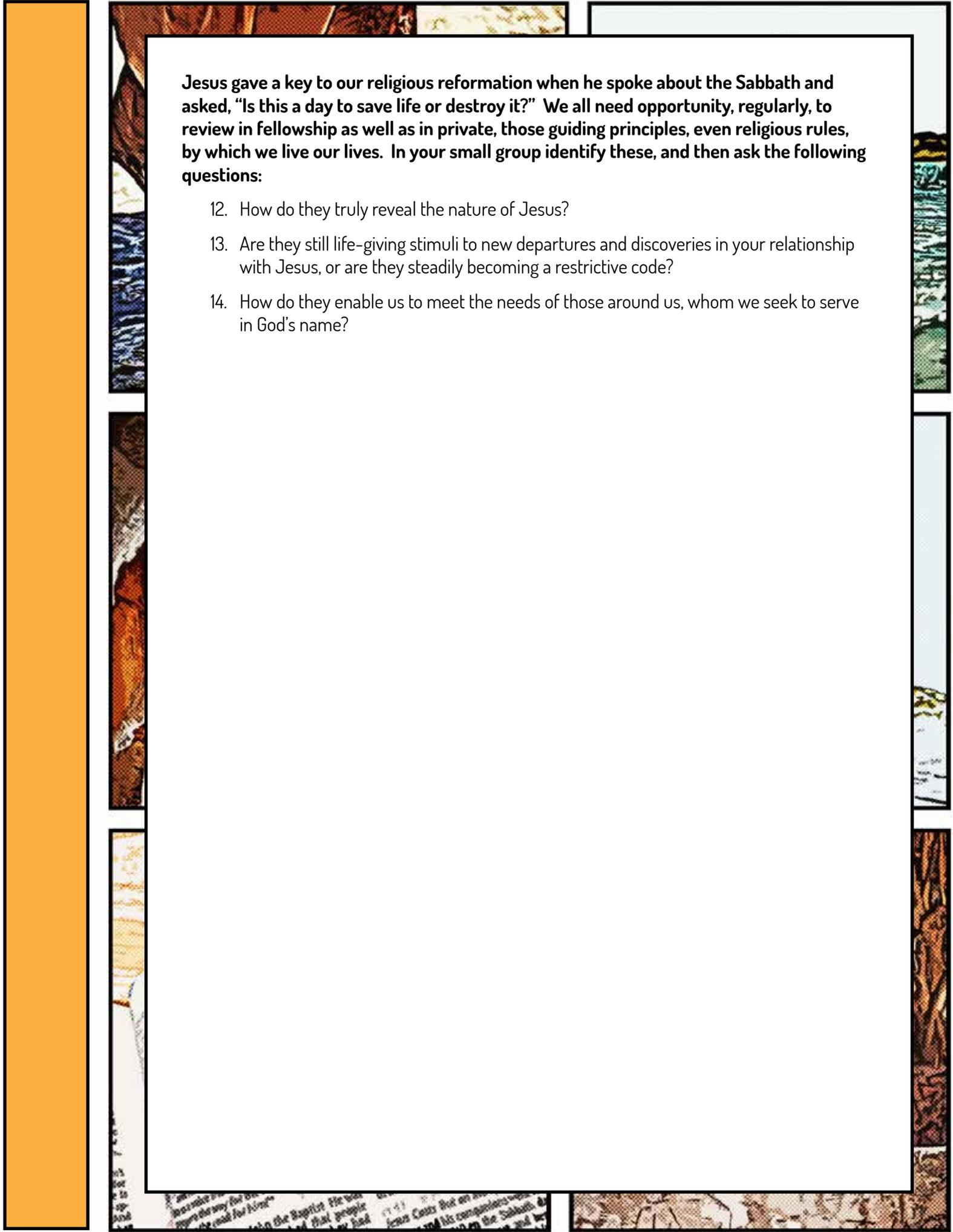
No one thinks following God is fun – Read Mark 2:18-22

6. Jesus answers the question of why no one is fasting with him by telling them that this is a joyous celebration! What are they celebrating?
7. How does this celebration relate to the other two metaphors that he uses in the following verses?
8. Have you ever tried to gain God's favour? What did that look like for you? How does Jesus' coming release us from the tyranny of being a Pharisee?
9. Read Ephesians 2:8,9 and Ephesians 5:1,2 and discuss how you can continue to live in freedom from the law.

No one messes with the Sabbath – Read Mark 3:1-6

10. Did you ever grow up with a list of rules to follow on Sunday? What were those rules, and how did they make you feel?
11. Read Mark 2:27 and then in light of what Jesus says here read Exodus 20:8-11 – how does Jesus shed new light on the fourth command for you? Do you honour the Sabbath in your life? How will this change for you?

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Jesus gave a key to our religious reformation when he spoke about the Sabbath and asked, "Is this a day to save life or destroy it?" We all need opportunity, regularly, to review in fellowship as well as in private, those guiding principles, even religious rules, by which we live our lives. In your small group identify these, and then ask the following questions:

12. How do they truly reveal the nature of Jesus?
13. Are they still life-giving stimuli to new departures and discoveries in your relationship with Jesus, or are they steadily becoming a restrictive code?
14. How do they enable us to meet the needs of those around us, whom we seek to serve in God's name?