

Hope in a Broken world

3/3 Bible Discovery Session

Jesus Demands a Choice (5 of 6) **“No Hope Found in Religion”**

Report & Celebrate (15-20 minutes)

1. Share & Care

- *How has your week been?*



Care

2. Accountability *Following*

- *What do you remember from our last session?*
- *How have you seen God at work around you?*



Report

Fishing

- With whom did you share last week's story?
- *How did it go? Were there challenges or questions?*



Sow

3. Worship

Close this section with a simple prayer thanking God for what He has done this week!



Worship

Notes:

- Always read from the Bible. **Use it as your only resource!**
- Always remember that you are modelling how they will do this in the future, so don't get too creative!

“For I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. In those days when you pray, I will listen. If you look for Me wholeheartedly, you will find Me.” Jeremiah 29:11-13

Hear & Obey (15-20 minutes)

4. New Lesson - What does the story **SAY**?

Let participants read the story 2 times in two different translations.

- *Is there anything that surprises or shocks you?*
- *What do you learn about people in this story?*
- *What do you learn about Jesus (God) in this story?*
- *Does your view of Jesus (God) change? How?*
- *Where do you see yourself in this story? Why?*



Learn

5. Application - What must I **OBEY**?

- *What have you learned today?*
- *How will you apply it to your life?*



Correct

Notes:

- Before you read the story, explain that the **Pharisees** were a group of Jews who studied God's law and thought that they kept all God's rules; but they were proud and had high opinions of themselves. They were the "religious police" who thought it was their responsibility to keep everyone else in line!
- After discussing today's lesson, explain the difference between **religion** and a **relationship** with God. **Religion** is all about rituals and the things you DO to earn God's favor. Religion restricts God to a certain area of your life and actually keeps Him at a distance. Having a **relationship** with God means that you invite Him in to every part of your life. It means you are dependent on God, letting Him influence you and trusting Him to lead your life!



Guide

Do's and Do Not's

- **Do** let the Holy Spirit be the teacher.
- **Do** remember to study for obedience rather than for knowledge!
- **Don't** dominate the conversation; encourage everyone to participate. Facilitator = 30%, Participants = 70%
- **Don't** demand correct answers.
- **Don't** get distracted, stay on topic.
- **Don't** be afraid to say "I don't know the answer, I'll get back to you."

Jesus Criticizes the Religious Leaders

Luke 11:39-52 (NLT)

39 Then the Lord [Jesus] said to him, *“You Pharisees are so careful to clean the outside of the cup and the dish, but inside you are filthy—full of greed and wickedness! 40 Fools! Didn’t God make the inside as well as the outside? 41 So clean the inside by giving gifts to the poor, and you will be clean all over.*

42 *“What sorrow awaits you Pharisees! For you are careful to tithe even the tiniest income from your herb gardens, but you ignore justice and the love of God. You should tithe, yes, but do not neglect the more important things.*

43 *“What sorrow awaits you Pharisees! For you love to sit in the seats of honor in the synagogues and receive respectful greetings as you walk in the marketplaces. 44 Yes, what sorrow awaits you! For you are like hidden graves in a field. People walk over them without knowing the corruption they are stepping on.”*

45 “Teacher,” said an expert in religious law, “You have insulted us, too, in what You just said.”

46 “Yes,” said Jesus, *“what sorrow also awaits you experts in religious law! For you crush people with unbearable religious demands, and you never lift a finger to ease the burden. 47 What sorrow awaits you! For you build monuments for the prophets your own ancestors killed long ago. 48 But in fact, you stand as witnesses who agree with what your ancestors did. They killed the prophets, and you join in their crime by building the monuments! 49 This is what God in His wisdom said about you: ‘I will send prophets and apostles to them, but they will kill some and persecute the others.’*

50 *“As a result, this generation will be held responsible for the murder of all God’s prophets from the creation of the world— 51 from the murder of Abel to the murder of Zechariah, who was killed between the altar and the sanctuary. Yes, it will certainly be charged against this generation.*

52 *“What sorrow awaits you experts in religious law! For you remove the key to knowledge from the people. You don’t enter the Kingdom yourselves, and you prevent others from entering.”*

Go & Tell (15-20 minutes)

6. Practice

Retell the story to model for them.

- *Let everyone retell or summarise the story.*
- *What is the main point of the story?*



Equip

7. Cast Vision

[Use the idea below or use your own idea: a Bible verse or a personal illustration to help participants see God's great love for them and how they can pass that love on to everyone!]



Vision

Karl Barth was lecturing to a group of students at Princeton. One student asked the German theologian "Sir, don't you think that God has revealed himself in other religions and not only in Christianity?" Barth's answer stunned the crowd. With a modest thunder he answered, "No, God has not revealed himself in any religion, including Christianity. He has revealed himself in his Son."

God revealed himself to us in such a personal way, sending Jesus down to live among us and show us his love! Others need to hear that God doesn't want your religion; He wants a relationship with you! Go tell your friends and family about the difference!

8. Plan - With whom can I **SHARE**?

- *Who else needs to hear what you are learning?*
- *Is there anyone you can invite to join us?*



Plan



Reproduce

9. Pray

Model a simple prayer for participants, asking God to give them understanding and a desire to share what they've heard with others.



Pray

Extra Challenge (verse to memorize or Bible passages to read)

Discover Jesus



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