

Small Groups Study Guide:

Read the entire Passage first: Mark 2:18-22

- Looking back at your notes from this week’s teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?
- What did God speak to you during the sermon?
- Where in your life have you given God rituals over a deeper relationship with Him?
- In What ways have the tools become the rules in your life?

Fasting was a response not a ritual

A sign of brokenness and humility, turned into a source of pride

God wants obedience, but we tend to give him rituals

The problem is when we start to trust the ritual over the relationship

They promoted a system, while He offered Salvation

Salvation is not a religious ritual, Salvation is a Person

Christ’s Kingdom is changing old concepts

Don’t let the tools become rules

The list below contains some of the things we can do to grow spiritually. Which of these do you think could most easily become something where you just “go through the motions?”

Going to church	Life Group
Serving/Volunteering	Daily Bible reading/Bible studies
Communion	Fasting
Giving/Generosity	Prayer

God wants a relationship with us. He isn’t interested when we turn things that are meant for growth into religious rituals. Matthew 6:1-18 does a great job illustrating the differences between a relationship with God and practicing rituals.

As you read through the passage, what themes do you see?

What is the ONE thing God is asking you to do this week?