

# Freedom Series

---

## Session 6: Religion

**For Leaders:** Here are some questions for you and your group to consider. You do not have to answer all the questions, but see which ones God is leading you to discuss with your group. You, the leader, can lead the discussion yourself, or you could ask for volunteers or assign people to certain questions. Above all, hear what God is saying to you through your group. Don't feel compelled to answer every question. Enjoy your time with God and with each other!

### Learn

---

1. Considering the dictionary definition, popular commentaries, and your own observations, what is religion?
  - The service and worship of God or the supernatural. A commitment or devotion to a set of attitudes, beliefs and practices. A creed, faith or persuasion.
  - Man trying to work our way to God
2. Considering the dictionary definition, popular commentaries, and your own observations, what is relationship?
  - The state of being related or interrelated; a situation existing between those having relationships or dealings; like a romantic or passionate attachment. An alliance, connection, partnership, or union.
  - God coming down to man.
3. What is the difference between religion and relationship?
  - Religion focuses on what we try to do for God or to satisfy God. Christianity is about having a Relationship with God through faith in Jesus Christ.
  - Relationship focuses on what God has accomplished for us and how He came looking for us to reconcile us to Himself and save us. Relationship focuses on believing in and trusting in what God has already done and provided for us in Christ.
4. Why doesn't religion work?
  - Romans 3:23: For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God
  - Romans 7:14-15: The trouble is not with the law; it is pure and good. The problem is with me - I am a slave to sin. I want to do what is right, but instead I do what I hate.
5. What is God's solution?
  - 2 Corinthians 5:18: God has reconciled us to himself through Jesus Christ
  - Matthew 1:21: She will give birth to a Son; and you shall name Him Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."

- John 19: 28, 30: After this, Jesus, knowing that all things had already been accomplished, in order that the Scripture would be fulfilled, \*said, "I am thirsty."<sup>29</sup> A jar full of sour wine was standing *there*; so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a *branch of hyssop* and brought it *up* to His mouth. <sup>30</sup>Therefore when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "**It is finished!**" And He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.
  - John 3:16: "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish, but have eternal life.
6. What is the only work God wants from us?
    - John 6:29: Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent."
  7. What are 3 things we should do to cultivate our relationship with God?
    - Pray. Talk to God and listen to Him. Get to know Him. How much time do you spend in prayer, talking with the Lord each day? (This question is asked not out of judgement or condemnation, but frankly and honestly, for accountability.)
    - Read the Bible. Ask God to speak to you through His word. Deuteronomy 8:3 and Matthew 4:4, Man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of God. God word guides, teaches, strengthens, inspires, heals, encourages, fills with faith, gives a sense of anticipation, fills with joy, and changes you.
    - Praise and Worship. Worship God for who He is. Thank Him for what He has done.
  8. Religion is a [burden]. Relationship [frees].
  9. How does having a relationship with Jesus change us?
    - By the power of His indwelling Spirit, we simply surrender to Him and He makes the crooked paths straight (Is. 42: 16) and leads us like a Good Shepherd (Ps. 23:1) and we have everything we need.

## Apply

---

1. Why wasn't Rosa satisfied with going to church when she was younger?
  - It wasn't changing her
2. Are there things you have tried to do to change yourself or your circumstances that failed? Reflecting on this study, why did your efforts fall short?
3. What was the turning point for Rosa?
  - Her uncle telling her about Heaven and Hell.

4. What are some things God has used to get your attention to seek Him with all of your heart, soul, and mind?
  
5. As Rosa started seeking God, what did she learn about God?
  - God doesn't want us to follow all these rules, but he wants a personal relationship with us.
  - Revelations 3:20: She could talk to God about anything, as a true friend. He does not judge, but guides, leads, and corrects when needed. No topic is off the table.
  - She learned that God gives strength, wisdom, and direction in difficult times.
  - She learned about much God loves us.
  
6. Rosa said she was looking for change in her life. Are there changes in yourself or in your life that you are still hoping for from God? Write it out on a piece of paper or in your journal. Talk about this with Jesus every day. Read the Bible every day to hear what He has to say to you. Praise and worship Him each day for all He has done and all He will do.
  
7. Are you satisfied with the amount of time you spend each day with Jesus in prayer, reading the Bible, and praising Him?
  - If so, please share your thoughts about your times with Jesus and practical things you have had to do to protect your time with Jesus.
  - If not, are there some areas of wrong thinking or beliefs that keep you from spending the time you want, or practical barriers that you can address?

Follow-up resources:

[The New Covenant Part 1 of 6 Taking Hold of the New Covenant by David Wilkerson - YouTube](#)

It is Finished. Book by David Wilkerson