

INTRODUCTION

If you aren't religious or you gave up religion, you probably had good reason to walk away or stay away. You're a reasonable person, and there are plenty of good reasons to reject religion. But reconsider Jesus. He wasn't an extension of the old religion. He came to introduce something brand new.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Talk about a time when science, culture, philosophy, or your own experiences caused you to doubt your faith. How did you respond?
2. What are some ways people try to earn their way into right standing with God, rather than trusting in what Jesus has already done for them? Do you ever catch yourself striving to earn God's approval? If so, how?
3. Read Matthew 5:3-12 aloud together. In what ways do these verses challenge Old Testament teaching? In what ways do they challenge *our* cultural values?
4. During the message, John said, "Jesus replaced all that Moses and Solomon put in place. Christianity can stand on its own two nail-scarred resurrection feet." What implications does that have for the way you view Christianity or your relationship with God?
5. Matthew 7:12 says, "So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets." What does that reveal about God's character and values? How does it make your faith less complicated but more demanding?
6. Read Matthew 28:18. Andy said he would address this more fully in Part 11, but what do you think Jesus was referring to when he said, "Teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you"?