

EVERY & BREVITY & NEWS



CURRENT SERIES:

Week 1:  
The Rules



ANNOUNCEMENTS!

→ Family Birthday Celebration

CALENDAR:

- BIG STUF- June 14-18!
- Family Birthday Celebration- May 2.

ATHENS CHURCH  
THE FOUNDRY BUILDING  
330 N. Thomas St.  
Athens, Ga 30601

PICTURES!



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## TEN: The Rules

**Bottom Line:** Relationship always precedes rules with God.

### Message Overview:

For so many people, Christianity is nothing but a set of rules. And if you asked them “Why?” they would point to a single source—the Bible. Specifically, they would probably mention the Ten Commandments. But what most people miss is the whole context for that list. God established a relationship with the Israelites long before He even gave them the rules. He wanted them to know they were His people. The reality is that following the rules will never make God love us more. In fact, when you try to live them out, you begin to see just how much you need Him. When you really think about it, each one of us wants relationship over rules. We are more likely to trust what someone is saying when we know that person has our best interest in mind, when we know he or she really cares. **The goal this week is a great opportunity to reframe a false concept that many people have, including Christians—that God is more concerned about the rules than He is about us.** With God, the relationship always precedes the rules. Always.

**Scripture References:** Exodus 20:1; 12:1-4; John 1:29, 36

### Questions:

- 1.) Who are some people that give you rules? (Think on a big scale and on a personal level.)
- 2.) Why do they give you rules? What do their rules tell you about what’s important to them or how they feel about you?
- 3.) How are rules different when they come from someone who you know loves and accepts you?
- 4.) Do you have any rules in your life that you have created for yourself? How do they indicate what is most important to you? What’s the purpose in having the rules?
- 5.) How is what you heard about the Ten Commandments this week different from what you thought you knew about them? What is something new you learned?
- 6.) Does learning about the history of the Israelites before they left Egypt change the way you feel about God’s decision to give them commandments later on? Does it change the way you view God and what He cares about? How?
- 7.) Have you ever found that guilt over a certain behavior has changed the way you acted? Was it just temporary? If you have changed, what **has actually** caused you to change your actions?
- 8.) Had you ever heard the story about God asking the Israelites to put blood on their doorposts? What was that about? What makes this a key element to the story?
- 9.) Look up John 1:29, 36. In these verses John the Baptist calls Jesus the Lamb of God. How would this reference have been familiar to the people listening? How did Jesus show Himself to be the Lamb of God? The Israelites spread the blood of a lamb on the doorposts in order to be saved. While we don’t do that, what does Jesus’ blood do for us?

### The Next Step:

**X/IO:** Answer the questions- Why is it important to know about God’s love before we can show it to others? Who are those people in your life that you see that you should be more loving to? Who are those friends, teammates, sibling, parents, etc. that you could be more loving to? This week challenge your students to be intentional about loving those around them. Encourage them to take step towards loving those around them.