



Weekend Resources

August 9, 2026

Week 3 - Empty Religion

Use these questions and resources during your study time or with your group.

RECAP: Not everything that looks spiritual reflects Jesus. Sometimes the most faithful thing you can say is: "That ain't it." And then follow Him into something better.

MAIN POINTS

- Drop the Preferences
- Drop the Talk
- Drop the Barriers

GETTING STARTED

- What's one place where you immediately felt welcomed the first time you walked in? What made it feel that way?

SCRIPTURE

- [Mark 11:15-18, Isaiah 56:7, Jeremiah 7:11, Acts 15:19](#)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- The message describes the gap between what people expect from God and what they sometimes experience from religious people. **Why do you think that gap exists, and have you ever seen or experienced it?**
- Jesus became angry because people were making it harder for others to come to God. **What do you think this story reveals about what matters most to Jesus?**
- The phrase "Clear the Court" is used throughout the message. **What do you think it looks like for a church—or even a community of people—to make others feel like they truly belong?**

APPLICATION

- **Jesus invites us to trade comfort for hospitality.** What preference (your routine, seat, schedule, expectations, etc.) might God be asking you to hold more loosely so someone else can feel welcomed?
- **The way we speak can either make faith feel approachable or confusing.** Where in your everyday life could you communicate God's love with more clarity, warmth, and authenticity this week?
- **Following Jesus means helping remove barriers, not creating them.** Who in your life might feel like they don't belong, and what is one practical way you could help them experience the kind of welcome Jesus offers?

RESOURCES

- **Closing Prayer:** God, thank you for always making room for us. Help us see people the way you do and notice those who might be feeling overlooked or unsure if they belong. This week, give us the courage to let go of our own preferences, choose words that bring life, and make it easier—not harder—for people to experience your love. Use us to create spaces where everyone feels welcome. Amen.