



**You're Not Far**  
**WEEK 4: Loophole Religion**  
**(Mark 1:15; 6:54-5; 7:1-13; 8:31 NIV)**

Do you ever feel far from God? It's not uncommon. As it turns out, God is closer than you think. Join us as we study the true story of Simon Peter to explore how you are never far from God.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. [ICEBREAKER] What was your favorite childhood TV show, book or cartoon?
2. Similar to the oral laws or torah of the Pharisees, what unwritten “human traditions” do you think are the most challenging in today’s modern world? What do you see people struggling with while attempting to follow these unwritten rules?
3. As Pastor William asked in this week’s sermon, “Do you think it’s possible that you have let go of the commandments of God and are holding on to human traditions?” If not, has this been a challenge for you in the past?
4. Can you think of someone who you might have sinned against? While you might have asked God for forgiveness, did you make it right with the individual in question? If you did, can you offer any advice to others who might need it?
5. Read John 15:12 and Mark 12:28-31. As you think about your current situation, ask yourself “what does love require of you”? Are you able to set a goal for yourself to take action on this requirement?

**MOVING FORWARD**

Are you willing to throw up your hands and surrender all to God?

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*“And he continued, ‘You have a fine way of setting aside  
the commands of God in order to observe you own traditions!’”  
—Mark 7:9 (NIV)*