



Small Group Study Guide

SERMON: THE LEGALISM LIE

October 19, 2025 | CrossPointe Church

Tracy "PT" Pounders, Pastor

INTRODUCTION:

PT's sermon, The Legalism Lie, unpacks Luke chapter 11 to contrast Jesus' kingdom of righteousness, peace and joy with religious legalism that prioritizes externals, burdens people with extra rules, and blocks sinners from Christ. Jesus calls people out, offers grace, and invites repentance from religion to relationship.

KEY SCRIPTURES

- **Luke 11:1–4** — The Lord's Prayer: Jesus teaches dependence on the Father and that God's kingdom and will come to earth.
- **Luke 11:5–13** — Ask, Seek, Knock: A parable about persistent prayer and the generous, loving Father who gives good gifts.
- **Luke 11:14–32** — Demon accusation and response: Jesus is accused of casting out demons by Satan; he explains a divided kingdom cannot stand and points to his authority over evil.
- **Luke 11:33–36** — Lamp and eye: Jesus teaches that light (truth) is meant to be visible; beware preferring darkness and resisting the truth.
- **Luke 11:37–41** — Dinner and outside/inside washing: Jesus rebukes Pharisaic focus on external purity while neglecting inward righteousness.
- **Luke 11:42–44** — Woes on Pharisees: Condemnation for tithing externals while neglecting justice and the heart; hypocrisy exposed.
- **Luke 11:45–52** — Woes on lawyers/scribes: They burden people with rules they won't help carry and stand in the way of people trying to get to God.
- **Luke 11:53–54** — Plotting against Jesus: Religious leaders press and plot to trap and discredit Jesus, showing the deadly response of legalism.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (with Luke 11 references)

1. Read **Luke 11:1–4**. What does Jesus' model prayer teach us about priorities for living "God's order" on earth?
2. How does the persistence in prayer parable (**vs 5–13**) reshape your view of God's willingness to give? When have you experienced God answering because you kept asking?
3. Jesus warns about preferring darkness in **vs 33–36**. What are practical signs someone prefers darkness to light in their spiritual life?
4. In **vs 37–41** Jesus criticizes focus on outward rituals. Where do you see modern equivalents of "cleaning the outside of the cup" but the inside is far removed from God?

5. Read **vs 42–44**. How can Christians avoid elevating personal preferences into rules that burden others? Give a specific example from your context.
6. Jesus charges the Scribes/lawyers with taking away the key of knowledge (**vs 52**). How might legalism today hinder people from meeting Jesus? What changes would remove those barriers?
7. PT's sermon contrasts religion vs. relationship. Reflect on a time you moved from religious performance to grace-driven obedience. How did your motives and freedom change?
8. PT mentioned “personal preferences” and emphasized that we cannot elevate them to the same level as God’s Word. He specifically mentioned alcohol and cigarettes. What other personal preferences have you seen “religious people” try to force on Jesus-followers?

PASTOR'S BEST QUOTES (selected)

- *“Religion demands rules and compliance. But sinners need a Savior, not additional rules.”*
- *“Don’t judge someone by where they are right now. Judge them by how far they’ve come from where they were.” or don’t judge them at all! :D*
- *“Religion shows goodness externally, but internally, it’s a tool in the hands of Satan to kill, steal and destroy.”*
- *“It’s not Jesus AND religion. It’s Jesus OR religion.”*
- *“Repent of your religion. Stop adding rules to God’s Word. Stop the self-righteousness. Stop the boasting and bragging. Stop the judging. Turn from religion and run to Jesus!”*

ACTION PROMPTS

- **Personal:** This week try to identify one personal preference you may have elevated (food, music, dress, parenting, etc.) and choose humility—stop making it a standard for others.
- **Relational:** Invite someone marginalized or judged by “church rules” to coffee and listen to their story without correcting—practice getting to know their heart.
- **Spiritual:** Commit to a week of persistent prayer (ask, seek, knock) for one person who needs the gospel to find Jesus.

CLOSING PRAYER

Father, thank You for Jesus who brings Your kingdom of righteousness, peace and joy. Forgive us for legalism, for valuing externals over hearts, and for erecting barriers that keep people from You. Give us grace to repent, humility to remove our burdens, boldness to welcome sinners, and wisdom to live by Your Word rather than our preferences. We pray for everyone at CrossPointe: help us all grow in faith, find small group community, and invite others to join Sunday worship. Fill us with the Holy Spirit so our lives point people to Jesus, not to rules. In His name, Amen.

**PLEASE TAKE A GROUP PICTURE AND TAG PT (Franklin Tracy Pounders)
and Tabatha Pankey ON FACEBOOK !!!**