

Small Group Guide -- The Intersection of Tradition and Scripture

Rosh HaShanah -- September 12, 2026

Key Takeaways

- God's appointed times belong to everyone, not just Jewish people.
- Tradition and Scripture must be kept in proper order.
- The Fall appointed times point forward.

Discussion Questions

1. Before hearing this message, how familiar were you with Rosh HaShanah or Yom Teruah? What did you know about it, and where did that knowledge come from?
2. The message points out that God's appointed times are often ignored even by people who claim to know God. Why do you think that is? What does that say about how we approach Scripture versus tradition or cultural habit?
3. The message draws a comparison between the Ten Commandments and the biblical feasts, suggesting both carry similar weight and authority in that God commands them. Do you agree with that comparison? Why or why not?
4. The biblical instruction for this day is relatively simple: sacred assembly, rest from laborious work, and the sounding of the shofar. The reason behind the command is not given. How do you personally respond when God commands something without a full explanation? Is that easy or difficult for you?

5. The message describes how tradition fills in the gaps that Scripture leaves open -- for example, connecting Rosh HaShanah to the 10 Days of Awe and Yom Kippur, or associating the shofar blast with the return of Messiah described in 1 Thessalonians 4:16. When does tradition serve a helpful purpose, and when does it become a problem? How do you tell the difference?

6. The message notes that the name "Rosh HaShanah" does not appear in the Bible itself but comes from the Mishna, compiled around A.D. 200. The biblical name is most closely associated with "Yom Teruah". Does it matter what we call something, as long as we understand what it means? Where does naming something cross the line into reshaping its meaning?

7. The message references Acts 3:19-20, where Peter calls people to repent so that times of relief might come and God might send Yeshua. How does that call to repentance connect to the spirit of this season, even for those who are already believers?

8. The message describes three types of people waiting for Messiah's return: those literally sitting and waiting, those fixated on signs, and those actively preparing themselves and others. Which of those descriptions is closest to where you are right now? Which one do you want to move toward?

9. The message closes with this thought: those who are doing something different are "getting people ready for His return... telling people about Yeshua AND teaching someone about how to live for Yeshua." What does that look like practically in your daily life, your workplace, your neighborhood, or your family?