



## MESSAGE OUTLINE

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This is the second message in the series: *Let's Break the Rules*. The upcoming messages will be *Let's Feel*, *Let's Trust*, *Let's Think*, *Let's Choose*, *Let's Change*, and *Living by Grace*.

### OBJECTIVE

To show how Scripture offers principles of communication and dialogue.

### THEME

God created us to talk with Him and others in ways that are authentic and engaging.

### REVIEW

Rules-based Christianity has a way of becoming distorted to make faith more visible to become a standard by which we compare ourselves to others. Jesus declares that the entire Old Testament can be condensed to a mandate for a love-relationship with God and others.

### MOSES and SILENCE • Exodus 3 & 4

God calls Moses to lead the exodus. Moses responds with several objections, one of which is "I can't talk." The *don't talk* rule sometimes shows up as *silence*. God proves Himself strong on our behalf by declaring that His name is I AM WHO I AM. This stunned Moses.

### ADAM and SPIN • Genesis 3

God's first words to the first sinner were "Where are you?" Adam responds at first with truth, then with *spin*. Spin is a biased form of reality, often disingenuous and manipulative. Both Adam and Eve look for ways to deflect responsibility, to spread the shame they were feeling.

### DAVID and SECRETS • 2 Samuel 11

From all outward appearances, events in King David's world could not have been any better, but inside his heart a steady erosion was taking place. David commits a heinous act of shame then goes to great lengths to keep it secret. Secrecy is just another form of the *don't talk* rule. Secrets to protect our shame will eventually

have devastating consequences. Breaking the *don't talk* rule early can spare us from much misery.

### TOWER OF BABEL • Genesis 11

The ingredients for any project to succeed are team unity, commitment and communication. Take away any of these and the project will sink. God foiled their communication system by making different languages, reminding us of the necessity of dialogue and listening as the life-blood for any relationship to succeed.

### THE KINGDOM SPLITS • 1 Kings 12

After King Solomon dies, the nation of Israel goes from being the world super-power to being a divided weak nation due to a listening issue. Son Rehoboam must decide if he will cancel or continue his dad's harsh tax policies. He consults with his elders and some young men. The elders represent the majority of the people. Rehoboam rejects the advice of his elders and ignores the people he's ruling over, triggering the kingdom splitting. Israel ceased lost its honour and glory they were once known for and has yet to regain it.

Passages on listening include Prov. 1:5, 18:13, 25:11, Eccl. 5:1, Gal. 5:14-15, Col. 4:6, and James 1:19.

### JESUS and SAMARITAN WOMAN • John 4

Jesus breaks several man-made rules in this story, taking initiative to dialogue with a Samaritan woman. He models every principle in this message. He listens to her. He speaks her language in her context, making truth totally relevant to her. His words are personal, interactional, going beyond the predictable. He invites a response. She asks for the water He speaks of.

### SUMMARY

In our quest to learn how to break man's rules that hinder us from a strong relationship with God and others, breaking this first rule of *don't talk* will probably be our first step toward healing and growth toward increased authentic and engaging conversations.