

# WHO CARES?

A CONVERSATION ABOUT SOMETHING  
THAT CHANGES EVERYTHING

## Part Three: Religion

Aren't all religions the same? At their worst they encourage hate and violence. At their best they teach people some sense of morality and provide encouragement to work through life's difficulties. So what makes following Jesus different than any other religion. Well, let's start here: Jesus isn't religious.

**Scripture:** John 2:1-11

**Bottom Line:** Jesus replaced sacred space and sacred place with sacred grace.

## Discussion Questions

1. When you hear the word 'religion' what kinds of things come to mind? What experiences have you had with religion (Christianity or otherwise)? Have they been positive or negative?
2. Do you think there are different ways to talk about 'religion' in which some might be positive and others negative? What do you think separates one from the other?
3. Skim through Matthew 23:1-30. Jesus is very critical of the religious leaders. What are some of the things he criticizes in relation to empty religion and religious hypocrisy? Why do you think religion and hypocrisy often go together? Where do you see this kind of religion still being practiced today?
4. Can you think of any New Testament passages where religion is explicitly spoken of as a good thing? What kind of religion is it?
5. Read John 2:1-11. Make observations as a group about this story. What do you think the point of it is? John 2:11 says that what Jesus did was a sign (an action that points to something even more significant). What does this sign point to? What does it tell us about what Jesus has done and about how God wants to relate to us?
6. Read Romans 6:23. How does this depict a different way of relating to God? What are the contrasts between the first part of this sentence and the second?

## Moving Forward

What do you think an appropriate response to grace is? How can that response take shape in your life moving forward?