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GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Ask the Scriptures

TEACHING SUMMARY

This teaching answers biblical questions with Scripture rather than conflicting human opinions. It begins with sin as lawlessness and connects love for God with keeping His commandments. Love for God and neighbor supports the Law and the Prophets.

Yeshua's words in Matthew 5 and Paul's statements about upholding and delighting in the law are read together. Accounts in Acts show Paul answering accusations that he taught against Moses. Passages about the native and the sojourner are used to argue for a shared standard. The teaching also points to Paul's observance of appointed times and his instruction about celebrating the festival.

Faith and works are considered through passages in Hebrews, James, and the Gospels. Faith is expressed through conduct, and works without faith cannot please God. Yeshua is presented as the example believers should follow. Keeping His commandments, bearing fruit, and enduring in faith belong together, while outward religious activity does not excuse lawlessness.

Warnings about false teachers call believers to examine fruit and remain grounded in truth. The teaching connects truth, light, life, and the way with God's Word and with Yeshua. It warns against adding to or taking from God's instructions and against adopting the nations' patterns of worship. Human tradition must not be allowed to make God's commandments ineffective.

Gentile believers are described as grafted into Israel's olive tree and brought near to the covenants through Messiah. The new covenant with Israel and Judah writes God's law on the heart. Passages about one body, one flock, and one head reinforce this unity. Israel's wilderness assembly and New Jerusalem's gates reinforce that connection.

The final questions consider the continuing significance of Sabbath and the appointed times, the usefulness of all Scripture, and warnings about distorted teaching. Peter's warning about difficult passages in Paul calls for careful interpretation. The teaching closes with Yeshua's commission to teach all nations to observe His instructions. Beliefs and practices must be tested against the whole Word.

SUMMARY POINTS

- Biblical questions are answered by comparing passages of Scripture.
- Sin is defined as lawlessness.
- Love for God is expressed through keeping His commandments.
- Yeshua's teaching and Paul's instruction are presented as harmonious.
- Faith is made visible through works.
- False teachers are recognized by their fruit.
- Human tradition must not nullify God's commandments.
- Gentile believers share in Israel's covenants through Messiah.
- The new covenant writes God's law on the heart.
- Disciples are to learn and observe all that Yeshua commanded.

FILL-IN-THE-BLANK

Basic

1. First John 3:4 defines sin as _____.
2. John 14:15 connects loving Yeshua with keeping His _____.
3. Romans 3:31 says that through faith we _____ the law.
4. James 2 says faith without works is _____.
5. Matthew 7 says false prophets are recognized by their _____.
6. Romans 11 describes Gentile believers as branches _____ into an olive tree.

Challenging

1. The chapter showing Paul joining men in purification to answer accusations is Acts _____.
2. The new-covenant promise quoted in the teaching is in Jeremiah chapter _____.
3. The twelve gates of New Jerusalem bear the names of the tribes of _____.
4. The warning about difficult passages in Paul appears in Second Peter chapter _____.
5. Mark 7's example of tradition overriding care for parents uses the term _____.
6. The commission to teach all nations to observe Yeshua's commands appears in Matthew chapter _____.

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How do the passages about love and commandments answer the teaching's opening questions?

2. How does the teaching use Paul's words and actions to address accusations that he rejected Moses?

3. How do its passages from James and Hebrews explain the relationship between faith and works?

4. What connection does the teaching make between fruit, obedience, and recognizing false teachers?

5. How do the olive tree and new-covenant passages support its description of one body?

6. How do the warnings about tradition and distorted teaching relate to the closing commission in Matthew 28?

ANSWER KEY – GROUP GUIDE

Basic

1. lawlessness — 1 John 3:4
2. commandments — John 14:15
3. uphold / establish — Romans 3:31
4. dead — James 2:17, 26
5. fruit / fruits — Matthew 7:16–20
6. grafted — Romans 11:17–24

Challenging

1. 21 — Acts 21:20–26
2. 31 — Jeremiah 31:31–34
3. Israel — Revelation 21:12
4. 3 — 2 Peter 3:15–17
5. Corban — Mark 7:11
6. 28 — Matthew 28:19–20

FACILITATOR DISCUSSION NOTES

Suggested responses follow the teaching. Invite discussion and personal application; these are not additional required answers.

1. First John 3:4 defines sin as lawlessness; John 14:15 and 1 John 5:3 connect love with commandments. Matthew 22:37–40 identifies love for God and neighbor. Ask how love gives purpose to obedience, and choose a concrete act of care that puts that connection into practice.
2. Romans 3:31 and 7:22 supply Paul's stated attitude toward the law. Acts 21:20–26, 24:13–14 and 25:8 provide narrative context for accusations against him. Compare words and actions rather than relying on an isolated phrase, while noting the specific people and circumstances in each passage.
3. Hebrews 11:1, 6 describes faith and its necessity; James 2:17–24, 26 connects faith with action. The teaching treats conduct as evidence of faith and rejects works without faith. Ask how trust becomes visible in daily behavior without reducing a relationship with God to an outward checklist.
4. Matthew 7:15–23 warns about false prophets, fruit and lawlessness. Psalm 1 connects fruitfulness with delight in God's instruction; John 15:8–10 joins fruit, abiding and love. Discuss the teaching's standard for evaluating claims, including conduct and instruction rather than charisma or impressive activity alone.
5. Romans 11:17–24 warns grafted-in branches against arrogance. Ephesians 2:11–13 speaks of being brought near, and Jeremiah 31:31–34 names Israel and Judah and promises law within. The source connects these with one body in 1 Corinthians 12:12–13. Ask what shared belonging requires of believers toward one another.
6. Mark 7:6–13 gives the concrete example of Corban overriding care for parents; 2 Peter 3:15–17 warns against distortion. Matthew 28:19–20 calls for making disciples and teaching obedience. Ask how a teacher can preserve context, welcome testing and explain a practical command without adding a human requirement.