

Series: Up, Up & Away!

Title: Jesus: The Lawgiver and Empowerer

Main Text: Matthew 5:17-20

Welcome: 15 mins. Max.

Option 1: Ask three to four people to share testimonies of answered prayers.

Option 2: Share something about your experiences (up or down moments) during the past week.

Example: "This week, I experienced _____ moments that _____."

Word: 40 mins. max.

Intro: When Jesus referred to "The Law and Prophets", He was speaking of the entire Old Testament. Some Christians speak of the law and conclude that there is no longer any need for it anymore. Let us study today how Jesus and the New Testament writers explain the relationship between the Old and the New Testament and how do the laws of God given to Moses apply to us today.

Discussion:

1. Jesus fulfilled the Law and the Prophets. He became a sacrifice for sin. Hebrews 9:12 & 14 says, *"He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, thus obtaining [b] eternal redemption."* 14 *How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, [c] so that we may serve the living God!*

What is your definition of sacrifice? What has been the biggest sacrifice you have ever made for somebody in your life?

2. Knowing that Jesus fulfilled all the law and became the just and perfect atonement, how do you feel about the sacrifice Jesus made to save us from our sins?

3. Jesus obeyed all the commandments - He obeyed it from the heart. How do you define obedience? When it comes to us, how difficult is it to obey God's commandments on a daily basis?

4. An example of God's commands is found in Exodus 20:1-17. It speaks about the 10 commandments given by God through Moses for the people of Israel to obey as they live in the promise land. In your point of view, are these commandments easy or difficult to obey? What do you think are the benefits of obeying these commandments?

5. When we have committed sins (*disobedience of God's commands, etc.*) against God, we are often tempted to stray away from Him instead of running to His open arms and receive forgiveness, why do you think this is a common situation?

6. The law concludes that everyone is guilty and needs the righteousness and redemption of Christ. (Romans 3:23-24, *"for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus."*). What is your definition of "guilt" or being guilty? Would you share your thoughts regarding verse 23?

3. He fulfilled the prophecies about the Messiah - prophecies regarding the Messiah (major OT prophecies), who will usher the new covenant relationship with God, were all fulfilled through Jesus (1 Peter 1:10-11). Do you still remember the time when you made Jesus the Messiah of your life? Share briefly about your experience.

(Note: If there's a guest or new comer in the group, ask: Have you already decided to make Jesus the Messiah of your life? If not, what do you think is keeping you from doing so?)

Wrap up:

So, Christ came to save us from our sins (guilt) and sinfulness (weakness to obey; Romans 7:14-25) and to empower us as well to live holy lives (1 Peter 1:13-19). So be encouraged! Jesus, who obeyed it fully and satisfied God's justice in order to bring forgiveness to humanity, now resides in everyone who surrenders their lives to Him by faith. He will enable us to live morally upright lives, which is the revelation of the resurrection power of Jesus Christ in every Christian, to the glory of God.

Summary:

"All human beings have sufficient knowledge of what is right or wrong written on our hearts so that our consciences can accuse them or affirm them." John Piper.

Prayer for one another.

Ask each member of the group of their prayer needs. Assign prayer partners.