

## Growth Group Homework and Discussion Questions

For the Week of February 7-13, 2010  
“Homemade Religion”

### Homework:

Before your Growth Group meets, take about 20 minutes on your own to complete the following...

This week we saw how Abel got caught in the backwash of Cain’s sin and “homemade religion.” It can be quite disheartening in our pursuit to follow Jesus when we see the wicked succeed and the righteous being maligned.

- Read Psalm 73
- How did Asaph maintain his hope in his pursuit to follow God even when the wicked looked to be having “all” the success?
- How do you maintain a healthy connection to God that weathers the storms of life?

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### Growth Group Discussion Questions:

The following questions are to be discussed when your Growth Group meets this week.

**My Story:** When you were a child what did you want to be when you grew up? What did your parents want you to be?

### Digging Deeper:

Pastor Larry gave us six examples of how people fall into the trap of creating their own “homemade religion.” In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus makes some pointed statements about how we can focus on one aspect of God’s law, but miss the big picture of what God means. As you read each topic Jesus addresses, write down the law referred to and what Jesus says they missed.

Matthew 5:21-16

Matthew 5:27-29 (see also Philipians 4:8-9)

Matthew 5:31-32

Matthew 5:33-37

Matthew 5:38-42

Matthew 5:43-48

1. Can you think of a specific modern-day example for each of the above?
2. Is there one that you need to be aware of in your own life?

### **Living It:**

We saw this weekend that “trusting God enough to do what He says” is how we steer clear of creating our own religion. How does applying the following verses help you to put this into action?

2 Corinthians 3:1-6

Hebrews 10:24-25

Hebrews 12:1-2

Share with your group one area of your life in which you are having the most difficulty trusting God enough to do what He says. Then pair up with another person in your group (not your spouse if you are married) and pray for each other about those “hard to trust” areas you just shared with the group.