



## **Part Two: Rules**

Rules can be necessary and good but when they become more important than our relationship with others, we risk more than we think. If keeping the rules is the most important thing to us, we're going to be tempted to sacrifice relationships with people for the sake of rules.

**Scripture:** Matthew 9:9-13

**Bottom Line:** Relationships are greater than rules.

## **Discussion Questions**

1. Would you call yourself more of a rule-keeper or a rule-breaker? Why? In what ways do rule-keepers get frustrated with rule-breakers and vice versa? Why do we tend to count people out if they've broken certain rules?
2. When it comes to our faith, what's the danger of only focusing on following the rules? If someone asked you why a relationship with Jesus is more important than the rules, what would you say?
3. Read Matthew 9:9-13. Why do you think sinners and tax collectors were so attracted to Jesus? Why were the religious leaders so threatened by him?
4. Jesus quotes Hosea 6:6. What do you think this quote means? Read it in the context of the book of Hosea, what do you think the point is? What does this say about how God wants to relate to you? How God wants you to relate to others? How do you see this verse lived out in the ministry of Jesus?
5. If rules don't keep us from Jesus, why do we still hesitate to run towards Him when we know we've broken them? It can be tempting to count out people who are known as rule-breakers. What's wrong with taking that approach with them? What's a good way to respond instead?

## **Moving Forward**

Leaders, give each person a note card. Ask them to write down any adjective they can think of to describe a good "relationship." Ask them to put that card in their pockets, carry it with them this week, and look at that card when they think about their relationship with Jesus.