



STUDY GUIDE – October 11, 2020

Message Title: Wait, What?
 Why can't I make up my own rules?
Teaching Pastor: Jeremy Ford

Warm-up/Icebreaker:

Share a story of when you broke the rules growing up that led to a comical outcome.

Pray:

Dear Lord, thank you for this time together to deepen our relationship with You, our Creator. Help us to rely on you fully, knowing that you have good plans in store for us. May we experience a deeper connection with You as we seek to know and follow You more closely. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Get Started:

- Generally speaking, were you a rule-follower growing up? Why or why not?
- How would you describe your outlook on the “rules” in the Bible?
- Why would a question like “Why can't I make my own rules?” be important even for those having followed Jesus for a long time?

“The “rules” were never about do's and don'ts. They were a way to teach us how to live and lead us to a place of reliance on God. God is an artist, you and I, His prize works. Won't you think about that with me for a moment. Sunrise, sunsets, mountain vistas and beautiful beaches, the stars in the sky and a thousand other things that cause us to sit in awe at the marvelous creativity of God... Not one of those things, not a single one more valued and beautiful than YOU. He wants you and I to know Him as intimately as He knows us, the created seeking relationship with the creator. Nearly 8 billion creations of God on the planet, eight BILLION, yet He cares enough about me and you and you and you to provide a way for us to know Him. I mean REALLY know him, why?” ~Pastor Jeremy Ford

- What is your reaction to this excerpt from Sunday's message?

Read Jeremiah 10:23.

- What great truth is revealed to us through Jeremiah's prayer?

Watch and Discuss video:

Pastor Jeremy revisited the potter and clay scripture (Isaiah 64:8). He emphasized that any surrender resistance by the clay will lead to an incomplete vessel. In order to experience the fullness of a life following God, we must be willing to be shaped and molded into the beautiful example of glory and grace that God intended for us.

- Describe a time when you tried to make something out of clay.
- Do you view yourself as clay in the Potter's hand? What's the most difficult thing about being the clay?
- Reflect for one minute to allow time to consider any resistance in your own life. What do you think surrender looks like in the process of becoming more moldable?

Read Jeremiah 29:11-13.

- In what ways does knowing this scripture help keep us moldable by our Creator throughout our life?

Reflect and Commit:

"You don't have to live your life as a fragmented portrait, a shattered effigy, a dark and seemingly ruined canvas pointing towards an existence of no rules, no direction and no hope. God wants to do something so radical, so profound and He is calling out to you and to me with a promise that the damage that has been done is nothing compared to the restoration He has planned. **We are confident that God is able to orchestrate everything to work toward something good and beautiful when we love Him and accept His invitation to live according to His plan. (Romans 8:28 VOICE)**. We understand His purpose, we WANT good but if we say we LOVE then we have to LISTEN. God is in fact in the business of making all things new and here's the truth: He's not through with making a masterpiece of you."

-Pastor Jeremy Ford

- Often we can see God working in our lives more clearly looking back. Name a time in your own life where something that initially caused damage ended up leading to restoration.

Read Isaiah 43:18-19.

- What do you think we are to "perceive" in this verse and *why* is it important?

Pray:

Dear God, help us to know that surrendering to You and Your rules isn't about losing control, but about gaining life. Let us really listen to You, whether for the first time or for the first time in awhile, knowing that we are clay in Your hands. Help us to remember that You are not done with us yet, so that we may be able to perceive the new and good things You are doing in our lives. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.