

# UNFOLLOW

## Empty Religion

### Introduction

Junk mail. Spam bots. Click bait. We unfollow these all the time because they're unwanted and unhelpful. Yet everyday we are overwhelmed with noise, hurry, comparison, and empty religion that separate us from Jesus. It's time to unfollow the chaos and take back your life. .

### Pray

Don't forget that if anything significant happens, it's because God moved. Start by asking God to bless this time.

### Practice Truth

1. We heard the quote: "The average North American Christian is about 3000 verses overweight." What does that mean in terms of 'empty religion'? (Hint: 1 Corinthians 8:1)
2. If you haven't already, read Luke 15:25-32. Why doesn't the older brother come to the feast?
3. Pay attention to the language the older brother uses to reference himself. How is that difference than the language the father uses? What does this tell you about your relationship with God?
4. Religion is about cleaning yourself up before God. Grace is about accepting that God made you clean. In what ways do we still try to clean ourselves up?

#### Leader's Tip

Giving out other rotating (or established) roles can also create ownership and increase attendance consistency.

### Do Life Together

One commentator on this passage said, "One of the hardest things in the world is to stop being the prodigal son without turning into the elder brother." You may not be a strict 'older brother' but chance are, you're older brother-ish. In what ways do you most resemble the older brother? This could look like mechanical obedience, anger at God when life doesn't go well, an unforgiving spirit against those that harm you, or a lack of assurance of God's love. Encourage one another and pray over these things.

