

Out of Religion-Into Relationship

OUT OF / INTO	[the trouble with gods]	Going Deeper—Living it Out	What comes to mind when you hear the word, 'religion'?
	Baal		Describe the Israelites' struggle with other gods. How do we experience a similar struggle?
	Ashtoreth		
	Joshua 24.15		
	[the God of gods]		What things tend to become our gods?
	Deuteronomy 10.17-22		How is it possible that our relationship with God can be skewed to be worship of a false god?
[empty religion]			
Amos 5.21-24			
Isaiah 1.10-19	Describe some false perspectives we have of God that lead to empty religion.		
Matthew 6.1-18	So does all of this mean that religious activities should be avoided? Explain.		
	Is it possible that religious activities can be helpful in our relating to and worshipping God? Unpack your thoughts.		

OUT OF / INTO	[putting it together]	Going Deeper—Living it Out	So what does true worship look like?
	True worship		Explain the impact that true worship should have on us and those around us.
	Romans 12.1		
	Matthew 22.37-39		
	Matthew 23		So what's getting in the way?
	1 John 4.7-5.5		<p style="text-align: center;">MEMORIZE THIS!</p> Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.
Isaiah 58.6-12	-James 1.27 (NIV)		
[big questions]	This is what the LORD says: "Let not the wise man boast of his wisdom or the strong man boast of his strength or the rich man boast of his riches,		
Are you more focused on trying to please, impress or pacify God or on knowing Him more intimately?	<p style="text-align: center;">What things are getting in the way of you having a true relationship with God?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Describe the evidences of true worship in your life.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">²⁴ but let him who boasts boast about this: that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight," declares the LORD.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-Jeremiah 9.23-24 (NIV)</p>	