

SHOULDA, WOULDNA, COULDA

Part 1

Key Scriptures: James 1:27; Mark 7:6; Luke 10:29-37

1. Start talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- What have you done that you are super proud of?
- Have you ever regretted *NOT* doing something? What were the circumstances?
- Have you ever felt guilty for something you did in the past, knowing that you “coulda” done something different? What “shoulda” you have done?

1. Start thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- The passage in Luke 10:29-37 is often called the story of the Good Samaritan. In it, we see two religious leaders reject one of their own countrymen... why do you think they walked past?
- At the end of James 1, James suggests that there is religion that is pure and faultless... why does it include: looking after orphans and widows?
- How does someone “keep oneself from being polluted by the world”?

2. Start sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- Mark 7:6 tells us, “These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.” How do people tend to keep their hearts far from God today?
- How do you keep your hearts far from God?
- Jesus certainly did things differently than the religious leaders of His day. What story of Jesus’ life comes to mind when you think about how Jesus stood out? What attribute of Jesus does that story reflect? (Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Gentleness, Kindness, Faithfulness, Self-control?)

3. Start praying. Be bold and pray with power.

- In Mississippi, there are 3,671 children in Child Protective Services Custody.
 - 248 children in Jackson County
 - 209 children in Harrison CountyLet’s pray that these children:
 - Find hope in their Heavenly Father.
 - Find hope in the local church.
 - Discover that they are valuable. Primarily because they are created in the image of God.
 - Find support and are able to give support.

4. Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- Jesus showed that He did things differently than the religious leaders of His day. What are three things you can do this week to demonstrate Christ?
 - In your home?
 - In your social circles?
 - To a stranger?