

## STUDY GUIDE

Matthew 15:1-20

“Tradition or Truth?”

*“Why do you break the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition?”* Matthew 15:3

- 1) In what ways are traditions helpful to our lives? Share traditions you have practiced in your family.
  
- 2) Jesus was attacked by the scribes and Pharisees because he did not follow the handwashing ceremony advocated by the *“tradition of the elders.”* What traditions have you struggled with - and why?
  
- 3) In Jesus’ day the *“traditions of the elders”* had replaced the Scriptures themselves in importance. What religious traditions, cultural customs, ways or beliefs regarding how the church should function do you see replacing the Word of God or being in conflict with the Word of God?
  
- 4) What is the meaning of “Corban” and how was it practiced? In what other ways do we spiritually justify our refusal to obey the Word of God?
  
- 5) How can hold religious traditions, cultural customs, ways and beliefs regarding how the church is to function become a substitute for a true relationship with God and give us a false experience of worship?
  
- 6) Share and discuss the things we do during Sunday morning worship at Arrowsmith that are focused on God and the cross and Jesus – and then share and discuss the things that are not.
  
- 7) Where does spiritual *cleanliness* come from? What is true *goodness*? What do those look like in life?
  
- 8) Discuss the meaning and implications (personally and for the church) of the following quote:  
  
“We can get trapped by our own little rules or the rules of others and the rules we have for others by *worshipping our sacred opinion*. We then end up completely blind to a life that is real and full of joy. Worse yet, we could be leading others away from Jesus instead towards Him.”