



WEEK TWO

## Loopholes

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Looking for loopholes comes naturally. Whether it's eating all of our vegetables or being home by curfew. Sometimes Christians use the bible to justify their position rather than adjusting their position based upon the bible. They are looking for loopholes...

### STUDY QUESTIONS

**1. When you hear the word “loophole,” what comes to mind?**

**2. Is there areas of society in general where people often look for loopholes? What are they?**

Why do you think this is true?

**3. Which parts of the Bible are you most tempted to ignore? Why?**

**4. Read Luke 14:15-24. What point was Jesus making in this parable?**

How do the excuses in the story mirror the loopholes Christians often look for today?

What are the excuse-makers putting ahead of God?

**5. A loophole is a way of getting around a law or rule so that you are technically in compliance, but in actuality you're disregarding the law altogether.** Consider this statement: “Loopholes may work for ‘religious people,’ but not for disciples. A loophole is antithetical to what being a disciple is all about.” Why is that true? What does ‘antithetical’ mean here?

**6. Christians can often lift a bible verse out of its context to justify something they want to believe or do. But the bigger problem is “most often they’re seeking a loophole to get around the requirement to love others. Loopholes are all about self-love. Following Jesus is all about loving God and loving what He loves.” Why is loophole Christianity all about self-love?**

Why do we often balk at the command to love others the way God loves?

**7. Take a look at Romans 13:8-10. How might a loophole Christian interpret these verses? What questions might they ask of themselves?**

How would a disciple interpret these verses? What kinds of questions would they ask?

**8. Now read Ephesians 4:20-32. What does love require of you according to verse 25?**

How about verse 26?

Verse 29?

Verse 31?

Verse 32?

***Personal Meditation:*** In your quiet time this week, ask yourself what kind of a life do you want to live? Do you want to live a life looking for loopholes and trying to find the easy way out? Or do you want to live your life locked in on love and striving for the best for yourself, God, and others?

***Memorize James 1:22-24***—“But don’t just listen to God’s word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. For if you listen to the word and don’t obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like.”