

Discussion / Reflection Guide
“Embrace Change”
Week of September 24, 2017

Read Isaiah 1:11-17

- What are some of the words God uses to describe the way He feels about their “worship rituals?”
- Why was God so upset? Weren’t they just doing what God told them to do?
- Understand this: they had been doing these rituals all of their life. As a matter of fact, all of their ancestors had been doing these same religious rituals for hundreds of years. God is the one who told them to do it.
- How would you react if God said He hated some of your long-standing worship traditions and rituals? Is that even possible?
- What does God tell them to do in verses 16 & 17? Does the action he demands in 16 & 17 “correct” the errors they were making in verses 11-15? If so, what does that say about the real problem God had with their worship?

Read Matthew 9:14-17

- Jesus’ disciples broke with tradition and didn’t practice a religious fast (going without food). How did Jesus respond in verse 15? Why did He say that? What did He mean?
- Jesus seems to switch gears in verses 16 and 17. He doesn’t mention mourning or fasting any more. Instead He seems to suggest that His disciples must be flexible instead of just following traditions.
- Which metaphor seems more meaningful to you, the one in verse 16 (patching) or in verse 17 (wineskin)? Why?
- What was Jesus trying to communicate with these metaphors?
- Which seems to be your typical pattern? Being an “old wineskin” or a “new wineskin?” If you are more naturally an “old wineskin,” what can you do to become more “flexible?”