

# OFF LEASH

## MAIN TAKEAWAY

The freedom that the world offers is slavery, but living by God's commands is liberating and revolutionary. God gives us His Word to free us to live with influence, forgiveness, and humility.

## INTRODUCTION

Share about an experience of having or seeing a dog off-leash. What is the intended purpose of having a leash or training for animals?

In what ways might we wrongly view God's commands as a leash? Why does God give us commands and principles to live by, and how do we learn to obey Him?

## UNDERSTANDING

**READ LUKE 17:1-10**

*Your Influence is Never Neutral* (v.1-2). Why can't you impress and bless people at the same time? In what way are we all influencers, and how is this uniquely seen in parenting (Deuteronomy 6:6-7)?

Pastor Jonathan explained, "You are either gathering with Jesus or scattering, leading people toward or away from God (Matthew 12:30)." What kind of example should you set for others, especially the vulnerable (1 Corinthians 10:31-33)?

*Forgive as You've Been Forgiven* (v.3-4). How does knowing that forgiveness is not a suggestion but a command from God change the way you view your responsibility to forgive? What is the Christian's motivation and example?

To forgive means to release someone from a debt. How does forgiveness impact both people involved? What is the difference between forgiveness and trust?

***The Right Faith (v.5-6).*** Pastor Jonathan said, “We don’t need more faith; we need a deeper understanding of what faith in God can accomplish.” What is the difference between trusting in the strength of your faith and in the object of your faith (God)?

**Why did the apostles ask Jesus to increase their faith? How did Jesus redirect them to have the right kind of faith (Hebrews 11:1-3)?**

***It’s Not Always About You (v.7-10).*** Why do we tend to make ourselves the main character, both in life and when reading the Bible? Why should we live for an audience of One (Matthew 6:3-5)?

**Why is true freedom found in serving and obeying Jesus (Acts 20:17-24)?**

## **APPLICATION**

**How are the principles from this passage—using your influence for God, forgiveness, and humility—both counterintuitive in your life and countercultural in society?**

**How can you explain the principles of being “off leash” to those who view Christianity as just a bunch of rules and regulations?**

**How have you experienced the freedom of obeying God’s commands? In what areas of your life do you feel like you’re on a “leash,” and need to learn God’s instruction?**

## **PRAYER**

Thank God for His commandments. Pray that you’ll use your influence for God, extend forgiveness to others, and serve with humility. Live in the liberation of the Lord.