

Study Guide on Matthew 15:1-9

New International Version

Assign each person in the class one or more verses to study.
Each person should answer these two questions on their assigned verse.

1. What does this verse say?
2. What does this verse mean to me?
3. Discuss your answers with the class.

(Matthew 15:1) Then some Pharisees and teachers of the law came to Jesus from Jerusalem and asked,

(Matthew 15:2) “Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders? They don’t wash their hands before they eat!”

(Matthew 15:3) Jesus replied, “And why do you break the command of God for the sake of your tradition?”

(Matthew 15:4) For God said, ‘Honor your father and mother’ and ‘Anyone who curses their father or mother is to be put to death.’

(Matthew 15:5) But you say that if anyone declares that what might have been used to help their father or mother is ‘devoted to God,’

(Matthew 15:6) they are not to ‘honor their father or mother’ with it. Thus you nullify the word of God for the sake of your tradition.

(Matthew 15:7) You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you:

(Matthew 15:8) ““These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.

(Matthew 15:9) They worship me in vain; their teachings are merely human rules.””

Write the verse or verses you have been assigned in the space below:

Answer These Questions for Class Discussion or Study

1. What does the verse say?
2. What does the verse mean to me?