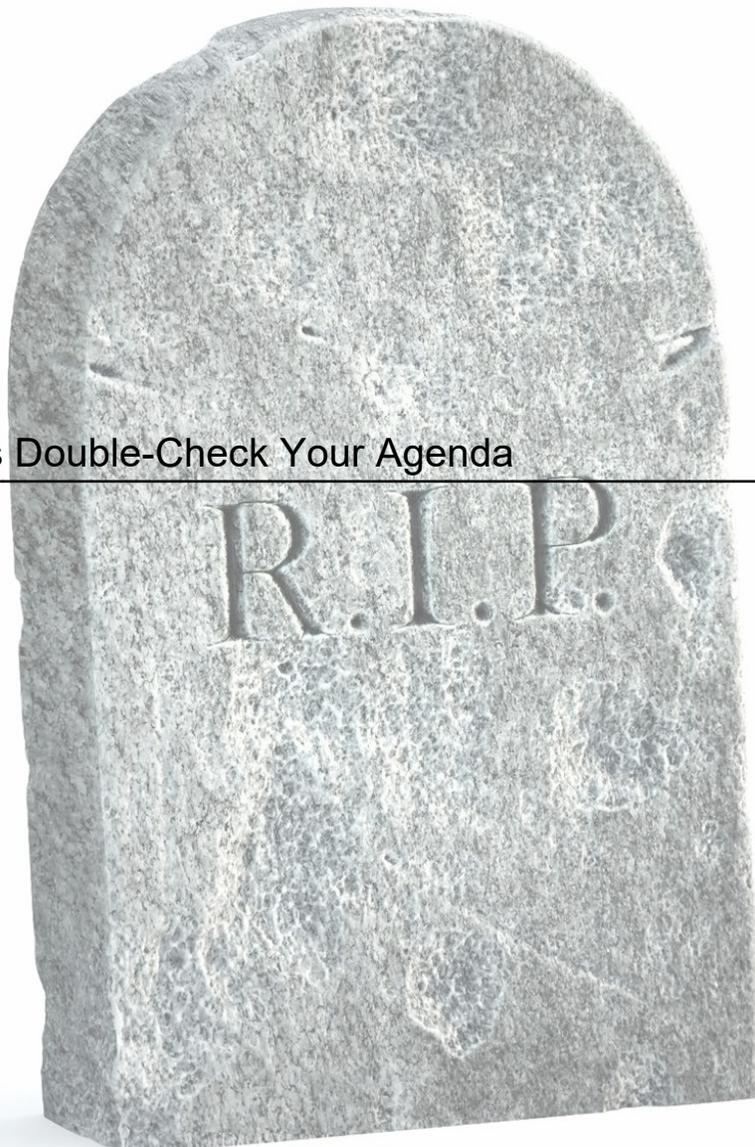


## Underlying Conditions

“ How to Prevent Dead Religion ”

**1.** Keep Your Criticisms in Check vv. 1-10

**2.** Always Double-Check Your Agenda vv. 11-18



# Grow Group Discussion Questions

A grow group is 8-16 people who get together weekly to study God's word and the previous Sunday's message. There is a time of discussion, support, encouragement, and learning how the message applies to daily life. **PCC uses the ESV (English Standard Version).**

## HOW DO I JOIN A GROUP?

To learn more or join a group, visit [pacificcoastchurch.org/gg/](http://pacificcoastchurch.org/gg/) or sign up at the patio Info Kiosk.

### Point #1

- Read John 5:1-10. How were the religious leaders trying to use God's word to shut down God's work?
- What does this highlight about dead religion? How does this relate to Point #1? Be specific.
- How can this happen to Christians today? How can this be kept in check? How is God speaking to you?

### Point #2

- Read John 5:11-18. Why did the religious leaders want to kill Jesus? How does this expose dead religion?
- How does this relate to Point #2? Why will misplaced motives always be unhealthy? Be specific.
- Describe how you can fall into this trap. How can you do a better job of applying Point #2 in your life?

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## Daily Devotions

These are provided for mid-week personal spiritual growth. Prayerfully writing out your answers will help you experience real life transformation as you dig deeper into the spiritual truths of God's word and today's message.

A downloadable PDF of this document is also available each week at [pacificcoastchurch.org/sermons](http://pacificcoastchurch.org/sermons).

### **MONDAY // Read John 5:1-10, Exodus 20:10, Jeremiah 17:19-27**

- Describe the response of the religious leaders when the healing took place. Why?
- In what way would they have appeared biblical? What does this imply about dead religion?
- How can this subtle shift happen with Christians today? How can this show up in your life?

### **TUESDAY // Read John 5:1-10, Matthew 7:1-5**

- Why did the religious leaders not acknowledge the healing? How were they living out Matthew 7:1-5?
- In what way will a critical spirit display underlying conditions of dead religion? Be specific.
- How can you struggle with this? Give an example. How does this challenge you to protect yourself?

### **WEDNESDAY // Read John 5:1-10, Romans 14:19, Hebrews 10:25**

- Describe how the religious leaders could have responded if they were spiritually healthy. Be specific.
- In what way did they try to use God's word to shut down God's work? How were they self-deceived?
- How can encouraging others prevent this type of deception from taking place? How does this encourage you?

### **THURSDAY // Read John 5:1-13**

- What is implied about the invalid's healing given he didn't even know who Jesus was? (Hint: no faith)
- What is also implied by Jesus knowingly deciding to heal the man on the Sabbath? (i.e., purpose)
- How does this help explain the miracles of Jesus? How does this also relate to dead religion?

### **FRIDAY // Read John 5:11-18, Matthew 23:25-28**

- Describe the contrast between Jesus healing the invalid and the religious leaders wanting to kill Jesus.
- How can they be so polar opposite and yet claim to follow God? What does this highlight about motives?
- Explain the connection between selfish agendas and dead religion. How can you keep this in check?

### **SATURDAY // Read John 5:15-18, Romans 8:5-11, Colossians 3:5-10**

- Explain the battle that will take place when Christians are spiritually healthy and following the Lord.
- In what way is a Christian called to "die to self"? How is this different than dead religion?
- How can you do a better job at addressing underlying conditions and dead religion? What steps will you take?

**MEDITATION VERSE:** *<sup>6</sup>For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.*

**Romans 8:6**