

# BREAKING THE RULES

STANDING FOR GOD'S TRUTH IN THE NEW NORM

## Part 1: Ancient Family

### Big Idea

"Our culture has taken a step backward and called it progress." Our society is selling a "new norm" that labels God's ways and His principles as outdated and irrelevant in our new and "enlightened" world. Unfortunately, we often "buy" what the world is selling, and we allow ourselves to believe that we know better than He does, what is good and acceptable. A quick look around us proves that the "new norm" is not working. It is time to return... to return to God's standard for our lives and our families.

*This is what the Lord says: "Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls."  
- Jeremiah 6:16*

### Discussion Questions

- The selfish, arrogant, and foolish ways of the Corinthian church reflect the culture of our nation today (1 Corinthians 1:18-25). What would you consider to be an area in which our culture has settled for the world's ways? What are some ways that we, as Christians, can combat these ways?
- "Jesus never lowered the standard. He raised it. Then, He refused to condemn those who couldn't live up to the standard." What are the implications of that statement to our personal lives? What are the implications related to the ministry of the Church?
- Pastor Chris stated that, "Something in your life is going to get or feel cheated. Make sure that something besides your marriage and family gets cheated." What are the barriers we face in fulfilling that challenge? What do we have to change in our lives to overcome those barriers?

### Next Steps

- Sit down with your spouse or family and discuss the six "Culture Busting Principles," Pastor Chris shared. Decide which of the six is most needed in your family and commit to work on it for a month. Do the same each month until you have focused on all six.

### Prayer Focus

Break into groups of two or three and pray for one another to have the strength to look God for his standards, rather than looking to the world, to our feelings, or to our own strength. Pray for our nation to return to the "ancient paths" of God's ways and standards.

### Leader Tips

Share a story about commitment...being willing to "be unhappy until you can work it out." Talk about the rewards of that decision.