

Series Summary: Nope

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Nope is a five-part series that calls believers to draw boundaries against harmful influences by saying "no" to anything that leads them away from God's truth and character. With Jesus' teachings as the guide, this series encourages discernment and freedom from deception, pride, greed, and false wisdom, affirming that true fulfillment and purpose come through Christ alone. Each week, believers are reminded to hold fast to God's standards in their faith journey.

Key Themes and Messages:

• The Way of Freedom:

Rooted in Matthew 23, this message highlights Jesus' caution against the Pharisees' hypocrisy. Believers are called to embrace the freedom Christ offers by shedding religious pretenses and focusing on genuine devotion. Galatians 5:1 reminds us that Christ's sacrifice liberates us from the burden of legalism, enabling us to live authentically in God's grace.

• The Way of Truth:

Jesus warns of false prophets in Matthew 7:15, emphasizing the need to guard against deceit. This message underscores the importance of grounding oneself in God's truth, guided by the Holy Spirit. With John 14:6 and 16:13 as anchors, believers are reminded that Jesus is the ultimate source of truth, and they should stay vigilant against teachings that distort the gospel.

The Way of Contentment:

In Luke 12:15, Jesus cautions against greed, directing believers to find fulfillment in God rather than possessions. This message encourages believers to cultivate gratitude and satisfaction in what God provides. With scriptures like 1 Timothy 6:6-10 and Hebrews 13:5, it highlights that true contentment is found in relationship with God, free from the pursuit of material wealth.

The Way of Wisdom:

Jesus' instruction to be "wise as serpents and innocent as doves" (Matthew 10:16) calls believers to approach their faith with discernment and reliance on the Holy Spirit. This message focuses on wisdom as a safeguard in sharing the gospel and navigating

spiritual warfare. Acts 1:8 and James 1:5 remind believers that the Holy Spirit equips and empowers them for wise, impactful witness.

• The Way of Humility:

Matthew 6:1 warns believers against pride, pointing instead to Jesus' example of humble service. This message explores how Jesus' humility—seen in His willingness to serve and obey God's will—should inspire believers to live humbly and serve others. Philippians 2:6-7 encourages believers to adopt a lowly spirit, reflecting Christ's love through service and obedience.

Key Goals:

- Encourage believers to reject superficial practices and embrace true freedom in Christ.
- Emphasize the importance of discernment and reliance on the Holy Spirit to avoid false teachings.
- Inspire a spirit of contentment rooted in God's provision, steering away from materialism.
- Cultivate a commitment to wise, Spirit-led interactions, especially in sharing the gospel.
- Motivate believers to embrace humility, modeling Jesus' selfless service in their daily lives.

This series ultimately challenges believers to say "nope" to anything that undermines their faith, leading them to a life of freedom, truth, wisdom, contentment, and humility in Christ.

Series Description:

This Series Description is written to help church members understand the focus and purpose of the series.

As we walk closer and closer with Jesus, we find more and more freedom in how we live and love. The way of Jesus is the opposite of strict rules, restrictions and a list of laws to follow. In fact, when Jesus spoke the most forcefully, it was to oppose the religious leaders of the day who wanted to teach a life of legalism and showy rule following. In our series, NOPE, we will look at how Jesus stands up against hypocrisy and condemnation and offers us a life of flourishing, righteousness and true freedom.

Series Assets:

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☐ Series Resources	

☐ Scripts (by Week)☐ Outlines (by Week)	
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Week 1 - The Way of Freedom

Description

This week, we're kicking off our NOPE series with The Way of Freedom, where Jesus tells us to "beware the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees." These guys were the original rule-hoarders, piling on regulations so intense it's a wonder anyone could breathe, let alone follow God. Imagine getting caught up in a maze of "rules" that God never even asked for—yep, that's what Jesus was NOT about. Join us as we unpack Jesus' snappy response to religious micromanagement and explore how He sets us free from all the extra "holy" baggage people love to throw in. Spoiler alert: faith isn't about playing referee—it's about actually loving people.

YouTube

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_IU6HqNPtG8

Week 2 - The Way of Truth

Description

Ever feel like you're living in a world of scams? This week, we're diving into *The Way of Truth*, tackling Jesus' no-nonsense warning about "wolves in sheep's clothing"—or in modern terms, "spiritual scam artists." From FTX's billion-dollar debacle to the Fyre Festival's infamous cheese sandwiches, it seems humans are wired to fall for the hype. But Jesus calls it like it is, telling us to check for "fruit"—what's produced by a person's character, content, and outcomes—to spot the truth from the half-baked promises. Let's get real about seeing through the smokescreens and choosing truth in a world full of knockoffs.

YouTube

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zn5CWQE5zAM

Week 3: The Way of Contentment

Description

We've all seen "BEWARE" signs, but probably not for "Beware of Greed." Jesus, however, gets right to it: "Beware! Guard against every kind of greed." Today, we're looking at how greed is the opposite of contentment—it's that endless itch for more: more money, more success, more control. Just like the guy in Luke 12 who interrupted Jesus' deep sermon with, "Hey, can you settle my inheritance dispute?" Greed is sneaky, convincing us that if we just get a little more of something, life will magically improve. But Jesus flips the script, reminding us that life isn't measured by how much we have, but by the richness of our relationship with God. Ready to say "nope" to greed and embrace true contentment?

YouTube

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jisd64ptlFU

Week 4: The Way of Wisdom

Description

This week, we're exploring Jesus' instructions to his disciples on how to spread the good news of God's Kingdom with a hefty dose of wisdom and a little snake-like savvy. In Matthew 10, Jesus told his followers to be "as shrewd as snakes and as harmless as doves" because sharing our faith doesn't mean charging in like Indiana Jones with his whip blazing. Jesus wasn't asking for a bullhorn approach; he was inviting us to bring peace, subtly and wisely, even in a sometimes hostile world. Through our everyday lives, our hurts, the good we do, the words we say, and even in how we worship during tough times, we can show Jesus' love without turning it into a forced, awkward pitch. Let's dive in and learn to share our faith naturally, wisely, and courageously—no snake handling required.

YouTube

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ENLyvdMyxWY