

does God respond to rule-breakers like us?
Matthew 11:28–30.

In this passage, Jesus offers an invitation to all who are weary, which includes many (if not all) of us. We can be weary from our battle with sin or the sin of others or the injustice we see in the world. **Are you weary? If so, what is wearing you down?**

We can go to Jesus for relief. He is inviting us to come and rest. Jesus has done the work and now just asks us to trust his work instead of thinking we have to do more to get God to notice us. The work is done—we now get to live in peace with God because of what Jesus has done. **What's your reaction to Jesus's invitation? Do you have any hesitations about coming to Jesus for rest? If so, why? What could you do to press past your hesitations?**

Jesus gives us the rest we truly need—rest from trying to be someone we're not, rest from trying to meet others' expectations of us, and rest from trying to justify ourselves. **What extra work do you feel you must do for God? What would change if you believed Jesus already finished that work?**

The ultimate source of our weariness and burden, of course, is sin. And Jesus has taken that burden upon himself for us. We no longer have to carry the burden of our sin—it has been dealt with on the cross. **What would it look like for you to give your weariness and burden to Jesus every day? How could we as a group help carry each other's burdens?**

LAST WORD

God's heart is just—it's a statement that is both true and if we're honest, frightening. If God's heart is just, he's bound to punish all sin—including the sins we have committed.

But, God's heart is not *only* just—it's also loving. God loves us so deeply that he made a way for us to be justified, and made right with him, without having to suffer the punishment we deserve. All we have to do, as he promises, is come to him in faith.