

# Small Group Bible Study

## Plastic Christianity Week 1

### Main Theme

This week challenges us to take an honest look at our faith and ask if it's real or just a surface-level version that looks right but lacks surrender. Jesus makes it clear that knowing about Him is not the same as actually knowing Him.

### Opening Prayer

God, help us be honest about our faith. Show us what is real and what needs to change. Amen.

### ICEBREAKER QUESTION

- What's something you bought that looked really good at first but didn't last or didn't live up to expectations?

### SCRIPTURE STUDY

#### 1. Read Matthew 7:21-23

Jesus ends one of His most important teachings with a warning. Not everyone who calls Him "Lord" actually belongs to Him. These are people who did religious things, served, and looked like followers on the outside. But Jesus says, "I never knew you."

This is not about people who rejected Him outright. This is about people who thought they were good.

- What stands out to you most in this passage?
- Why is this warning so serious and even unsettling?
- What's the difference between knowing about Jesus and actually knowing Him?
- Why do you think these people were so confident in their standing with Jesus?
- How does this challenge cultural ideas of what it means to be a Christian?
- What would it look like to build a real relationship with Jesus instead of just doing things for Him?

#### 2. Read Romans 10:1-2; Hebrews 2:1

Paul describes people who are passionate about God but wrong in their understanding. They have zeal, but not truth. Hebrews adds that even when we know truth, we can drift if we don't pay attention.

This reveals one of the biggest dangers: ignorance and apathy.

- What do these passages say about knowledge and passion?
- Why is it possible to care about God but still be off track?
- What does it mean to “drift” spiritually?
- Where do you see apathy show up most easily in your life?
- What is one area where you know the truth but haven’t acted on it?
- How can you stay intentional so you don’t drift in your faith?

### **3. Read Matthew 23:25-28**

Jesus calls out religious leaders who looked good on the outside but were broken on the inside. They focused on appearance, performance, and perfection, but ignored their hearts.

It’s possible to look like you have it all together spiritually while being far from God.

- What imagery stands out to you in this passage?
- Why do you think it’s easier to focus on the outside than the inside?
- How can performance-based faith be misleading?
- Where are you tempted to “look the part” instead of actually living it?
- What does it mean to let God change your heart, not just your behavior?
- Why does Jesus care more about what’s happening inside of us?

### **3. Read Matthew 7:15-20; 2 Corinthians 5:17**

Jesus says you will recognize real faith by its fruit. Real transformation produces visible change. Paul reminds us that in Christ we are made new. Real faith is not just a label. It produces a changed life.

- What does Jesus say is the evidence of real faith?
- What kind of “fruit” should show up in a follower of Jesus?
- What does it mean to be a “new creation”?
- Why is fruit a better indicator than words or identity?
- Where have you seen real transformation in your life or others?
- What is one area where you want to see more fruit?

### **SERMON RECAP QUESTIONS**

- Which “marker” of plastic Christianity (ignorance, apathy, performance, or identity without substance) stood out to you most?
- Why do you think it’s so easy to settle for a surface-level faith?
- How can you tell the difference between religious activity and real relationship?
- What does true surrender actually look like in your daily life?
- If someone looked at your life, what kind of “fruit” would they see?

## **APPLICATION QUESTIONS**

- What is one specific step you can take this week to move from just identifying as a Christian to actually living like a follower of Jesus?

## **CLOSING PRAYER**

Jesus, we don't want a surface-level faith. Help us truly know You and live surrendered lives. Amen.