

Small Group Study Guide

ICE BREAK

- How do you respond when someone says: “The church is full of hypocrites”?
 - Are there appropriate situations where we should not be transparent?
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STUDY

This week we focus on the effects of Hypocrisy on our relationships to ourselves, others and with God”.

What did you hear this week that was new about why we are hypocritical and God's reaction?

1. **Read Matthew 23: 5-7, 13** a.what was the original meaning of hypocrite? b.How do you respond when someone says: the church is full of hypocrites?
 - a. **1 Peter 2:1** What is the process of ridding ourselves of all hypocrisy?

Reasons Why We Pose

2. **Look to Gain Something: Seen, honored, show others Matthew 23:25-28:** a.Why was Jesus so concerned about hypocrisy among religious leaders? Why did he single them out? b. Share a situation in which you/someone else was posing to be seen in a friendship,, at work, church or family setting.
3. **Fear of Losing Something: Peter eating with Gentiles. Galatians 2 a.** What were the consequences of Peter being hypocritical in Galatas? b.Talk about why it is so severe to lead others astray.

Posing Takes a Toll

4. **...It can be exhausting:** a.Why does hypocrisy cause anxiety and require energy? b.Share a time you maintained a facade and what it required to keep it covered up.
5. **...It Can be Self-Deceiving:** a. Scripture warns us to not deceive ourselves-Jer 37:9, James 1:22 a.Who in your life can point out your hypocrisy/self-deception?

6. **It can be Repelling:** How does owning up affect our relationship with others, with God, with ourselves? b.Why is it silly to be hypocritical with God? c.How is our relationship with Him affected by our hypocrisy?
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REFLECT

- Reflect and Discuss: Why openness and confession are good for our hearts?
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PRAY

- Pray for each other's need to know God's grace and character for us to eliminate hypocrisy. .
- Follow up on past prayer requests.
- Pray for your group and the church to be an example of being open, forgiven and confident before God.