

ICE BREAK

- When are you most tempted to care about what other people think of you?
- Have you ever done the right thing but for the wrong reason? What did that feel like?

STUDY

This week we learned that hypocrisy is driven by a desire for validation from others, but real spiritual growth happens when we live for God's approval and pursue authenticity from the inside out.

What did you hear in this week's sermon that was new to you?

1. Read Matthew 6:1-18

- a. Hypocrisy is described as doing things for the approval of others. Where do you see that tendency in your own life?
- b. Why is it so easy to shift our focus from pleasing God to pleasing people?
- c. The message clarified that inconsistency is not the same as hypocrisy. Why is that distinction important?

2. Read 1 Peter 2:1-3

- a. How does "adjusting our aim" (changing our audience from people to God) practically change the way we live?
- b. What does it reveal about your heart when no one is watching or affirming you?
- c. Why is the "why behind what we do" so important in our spiritual lives?

3. Read James 5:16

- a. How can practices like secrecy (doing good without recognition) and confession help us grow in authenticity?

REFLECT

- Think about your recent actions—what has been your primary motivation: God's approval or people's approval?
- Where in your life are you currently "wearing a mask" instead of being honest and authentic?

PRAY

- **A New Aim** — Ask God to shift your focus from seeking people's approval to living for Him alone.
- **A Genuine Heart** — Pray for authenticity and freedom from pretending, posing, or hiding.
- **Courage to Be Known** — Ask for the humility and courage to confess struggles and walk in the light with other believers.