

Those Hypocritical People

Matthew 23:12-31

July 30, 2017

Community Group Discussion Questions

Please Read Before Leading Discussion

- **Recommended questions are highlighted in bold, but select 5 or 6 questions you think will work best for your group and discussion.** You likely won't have time to discuss all of the questions so choose which questions you will ask ahead of time.
- Feel free to edit or reword questions to best fit your group.
- You may want to print out copies of this document for everyone so they can follow along with the questions as you read them.
- Check out this Facilitation Guide (<http://bit.ly/FacilitationGuide>) for tips on leading good discussions.

POSSIBLE ICEBREAKERS (5-10 Minutes)

(Keep it short. Longer than 10 minutes isn't an ice-breaker – it's a conversation.)

- **Share your name and answer the following icebreaker:**
 - **If you could perfect one skill, what would it be?**

OPENING THE DISCUSSION (5-10 Minutes)

(As people share, utilize follow-up questions to keep the discussion as natural as possible: Tell me more, what do mean by that?, Anyone else?)

- **What was your biggest takeaway from Sunday's message? A thought, principle, idea, question, quote, etc.**
- **Why do we so easily notice hypocrisy in others and not ourselves?**

DIGGING DEEPER (10-15 Minutes)

(Be sure to manage your time so you can get to "Applying It".)

- **Have a few people read the following verses from Matthew 23. Vs.12, Vs.13, Vs.15, Vs.16, Vs.23, Vs.25, Vs.27, Vs.29, Vs.33**
 - **Why do you think Jesus gets so angry at the hypocrisy of religious leaders?**
 - **Which of these warnings stands out most to you?**
- **Jonathan stated that "*Hypocrisy is consistently revealed by the absence of authentic humility.*"**
 - **What do you think humility has to do with hypocrisy?**
- **Jonathan shared the example of King David's hypocrisy (2 Samuel 11-12).**
 - **How do you think people get to that level of hypocrisy?**

APPLYING IT (10-20 Minutes) (These questions might be best for prayer time)

- **Jonathan challenged us to answer the question, "What mask are you wearing?"**
 - **How would you answer that question? Where do you see hypocrisy most in your own life?**
- **Jonathan shared 3 prayers to overcome our own hypocrisy:**
 1. **Recognition - God, the hypocrisy I despise in others' lives in my heart.**
 2. **Redemption - God, I am desperate for the healing forgiveness of the Cross of Jesus**
 3. **Reliance - God, I cannot do this on my own, heal my heart, today and tomorrow.**
 - **Which of these prayers do you think will best help you overcome the mask of hypocrisy you just identified?**