

CHRISTIANS ARE HYPOCRITES

EPISODE 2: JESUS HATES HYPOCRISY

look back

First, **LOOK BACK** at the past week by asking, “How did we do?” Begin with prayer, then check in with one another—sharing honestly, celebrating victories, acknowledging struggles, and graciously offering practical help.

 **PRAYER** - Begin with prayer, inviting Jesus into the conversation.

Follow Up on Last Episode’s Assignment

Last week, we focused on representing Jesus authentically—listening first, responding with grace, and reaching out to those who feel excluded.

- Who did you reach out to or listen to intentionally this week?
- Did any conversations surprise you, or reveal new ways to build bridges with others?
- What did you learn about humility and love in your interactions?

look up

Next, **LOOK UP** to God’s Word by asking, “What does Jesus want us to know?” If you haven’t already, watch this week’s video: “*Jesus Hates Hypocrisy*.” Then use the “What Do You Think?” and “What Does God’s Word Say?” sections to draw out the main truths together.

 **WATCH: EPISODE 2: Jesus Hates Hypocrisy**

Episode Summary

In this episode, Dr. Bob reminds us that Jesus Himself hated hypocrisy—especially religious hypocrisy. The word “hypocrite” comes from the Greek theater term *hypokrites*, meaning mask-wearer or pretender. Jesus used this vivid image to expose the difference between people who put on a religious show and those who walk humbly in faith.

Jesus knows that all of us wear masks at times, hiding our flaws behind appearances, success, or religious habits. Yet He draws a sharp line between real hypocrites—those who knowingly fake righteousness—and those who are simply inconsistent, ignorant, or weak in their faith.

He calls us to take off our masks and be honest—with God, with others, and with ourselves. And just as importantly, He invites us to extend the same grace He showed to those who stumbled, doubted, and fell short.

HOW TO USE THESE RESOURCES

Whether you’re studying on your own or with a group, each guide follows a simple yet powerful rhythm: **Look Back / Look Up / Look Forward**. For group leaders, additional instructions for leading a small group are included at the end of the first workbook in each series.

ABOUT THIS STUDY

This series helps us face one of the most common objections to Christianity: “*Christians are hypocrites.*” Each episode explores how Jesus confronted hypocrisy, modeled authenticity, and built bridges to outcasts and doubters. The goal is not to win arguments but to represent Jesus truthfully—to listen well, live honestly, and let His character shine through us. The final study guide in this series includes **Discussion Starters** designed to help you share these videos and talk about faith with your children, grandchildren, and friends.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. How does Jesus’ definition of hypocrisy as wearing masks apply to today’s world?
2. What “masks” are you most tempted to wear in certain settings, and why?
3. Why do you think Jesus was so patient with those who struggled but so hard on religious pretenders?
4. How can we tell the difference between being hypocritical and simply being human and inconsistent?
5. How can this understanding help us respond with compassion when others accuse Christians of hypocrisy?
6. How can putting those who hate hypocrisy in the church on the same page with Jesus, who hated hypocrisy in the Temple, help draw them closer to Him?

We can say Jesus belongs to us, but that doesn't mean we belong to Him.

WHAT DOES GOD'S WORD SAY?

KEY SCRIPTURE

Matthew 15:8 “These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.”
Real worship flows from the heart, not from appearance or routine.

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE

Romans 7:15, 19 “For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do.... For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing.” Even the Apostle Paul wrestled with inconsistency, showing that imperfection is part of growth, and not necessarily proof of hypocrisy.

Romans 2:1–4 “You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge another, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things. Now we know that God’s judgment against those who do such things is based on truth. So when you, a mere human being, pass judgment on them and yet do the same things, do you think you will escape God’s judgment? Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, forbearance and patience, not realizing that God’s kindness is intended to lead you to repentance?” Comparing ourselves to others may make us feel better about ourselves, but it won’t fool God who sees the heart and judges perfectly.



Finally, **LOOK FORWARD** by asking, “What does Jesus want us to do?” Commit to practical steps for living out this lesson. Review the assignment, share commitments with the group, pray for one another, and move forward together in faith and hope.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCES

Matthew 7:21–23
1 Samuel 16:7
1 Thessalonians 5:14.

THIS EPISODE’S ASSIGNMENT

This week, practice authenticity and grace. Notice moments when you’re tempted to “wear a mask” or pretend to be more spiritual than you are. Instead, bring your true self before God and others. Take time to read **Matthew 23** and reflect on how Jesus’ words challenge your own heart while also revealing His deep compassion for those who fall short.

PERSONAL GROWTH COMMITMENTS



- What has God laid on my heart?
- What is the Holy Spirit leading me to change?
- What will I do in my own life, in my relationships, and to reach NextGen loved ones?

SHARE WITH THE GROUP



Encourage sharing commitments, prayer needs, and real-life stories. Close in prayer, asking Jesus to give you courage to be authentic, grace to forgive others, and wisdom to represent His love honestly in a watching world.

