



FAMILY CONNECTION

Use the following thoughts and questions to have a spiritual conversation as a family. Don't emphasize having the right answer, but focus on spending time discussing the Word as a family.

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 23:1-7,13-15,23-28

SESSION SUMMARY

In this week's session, we see Jesus explain what true religion is. True religion reflects God's heart, so it is authentic, it is honest, and it digs deep to change our souls (see Hebrews 4:12-13). Jesus taught all of these things to His disciples and the crowds and let them serve as a warning to the religious leaders who often harmed people through their inaccurate portrayals of faith. Here are the main points:

- Jesus denounces hypocritical religion (Matthew 23:1-7).
- Jesus denounces misleading religion (Matthew 23:13-15).
- Jesus denounces superficial religion (Matthew 23:23-28).

CONVERSATION QUESTIONS

- When has our family seen other believers be hypocritical? In what areas might we sometimes be hypocritical?
- How could some of our practices or behaviors lead people away from God? What can we do to change that?
- Who might be imitating our family when it comes to the way they live out their faith?

FAMILY CHALLENGE

Invite each person to write out something they really want to be authentic on separate slips of paper (for example, certain types of food, jewelry, or even clothing). Set a timer for one minute, then fold the slips in half and place them in the middle of the table. Mix them up. Then, go around the table, each person drawing a paper and telling why it would be important that this item is real. Why would it be bad for this item to be fake? Even more than types of food or brands of jewelry, it's important for our faith to be authentic. Otherwise, we could keep people from seeing Jesus.