



LIFEgroup STUDY GUIDE

What you will need to supplement this guide:

1. A copy of the outline provided for notes on this message (copy from message or downloaded from the COASTAL APP).
2. A Bible or Bible APP to refer to verses.

PURSUING LIFE TOGETHER SUNDAY MESSAGE REVIEW

NOTE to the LIFEgroup Leader: This guide is provided as a tool to assist you in facilitating a structured discussion with your group. When used in conjunction with the outline notes and a Bible this tool will ensure that your group will *Engage Authentically*. The questions are merely recommended “talk starters”. It is important for you to let God help you navigate through the conversation as you *pursue life together* as a group.

OPEN IN PRAYER

STARTER QUESTIONS:

Where have you seen God at work in your life since we last met?

What stood out to you from the message this week?

MAIN IDEA:

- REVIEW THE MAIN TOPIC OF THE MESSAGE. Allow time for discussion
- READ THE MAIN SCRIPTURE FROM THE MESSAGE OUTLINE.

How did this verse speak to you in your life?

- REVIEW THE SUB-TOPICS of the MESSAGE.

Have someone read each of the verses that were highlighted in the message, and briefly discuss.

Is there an area that you feel God is speaking to you through this message?

FINAL THOUGHTS:

- SUMMARIZE the main idea of this message.

Would anyone like to share your thoughts about what we discussed today?

How can we pray for you as a group?

CLOSE IN PRAYER

CLARITY
"Let's Be Real"

"Be careful not to do your 'acts of righteousness' before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven." Matthew 6:1 (NIV)

"Be especially careful when you are trying to be good so that you don't make a performance out of it. It might be good theater, but the God who made you won't be applauding." Matthew 6:1 (MSG)

"It is clear from the literary records that it was Jesus alone who brought this term hypocrisy and the corresponding character into the moral record of the Western world. It is ironic that even when, precisely when, we criticize the church for producing hypocrites, we pay tribute to this Man Jesus whose teaching gave us the picture of hypocrisy that shapes our moral understanding 2,000 years later."

-Dallas Willard

Jesus gives 3 specific examples of hypocrisy:

- Giving (Matthew 6:2-4)
- Praying (Matthew 6:5-6)
- Fasting (Matthew 6:16-18)

"Everything they do is for show... Hypocrites! For you are so careful to clean the outside of the cup and the dish, but inside you are filthy – full of greed and self-indulgence." Matthew 23:5, 25 (NLT)

"Hypocrites! ... You pretend to be holy, with all your long, public prayers in the streets, while you are evicting widows from their homes. Hypocrites! You are like beautiful mausoleums - full of dead men's bones, and of foulness and corruption. You try to look like saintly men, but underneath those pious robes of yours are hearts besmirched with every sort of hypocrisy and sin." Matthew 23:14; 27-28 (LB)

Why did Jesus speak so passionately against hypocrisy?

- Hypocrisy ruins our outward witness for God

"I've had it with you! You're hopeless, you religion scholars, you Pharisees! Frauds! Your lives are roadblocks to God's kingdom." Matthew 23:13 (MSG)

Would your life best be described as a roadblock or a bridge to God's kingdom?

- Hypocrisy ruins our inward connection with God

Final Thoughts:

- Just because people don't live up to an ideal doesn't mean the ideal itself is wrong.

When people who claim to be followers of Jesus do bad things, is it because of His teachings, or is it in spite of His teachings?

The real motive behind hypocrisy: Approval

"Be careful not to do your 'acts of righteousness' before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven." Matthew 6:1 (NIV)

"Whatever our position in life, if our lives and works are to be of the kingdom of God, we must not have human approval as a primary or even major aim. We must lovingly allow people to think whatever they will."
-Dallas Willard

Good News: The One who knows me best, loves me most!

Good News: The Gospel ought to make the Church THE safest and most honest place in the whole world.

"Jesus said, 'Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls.'" Matthew 11:28-29 (NLT)