

Community Group Discussion Guide

Step 01: Recap what our current series is all about.

Note: Remind the group what series we're currently on (since not everyone will have been at church recently) and read through the series description provided below to refresh everyone on what it's all about.

Series Title: Source Code

Description: During a grueling, snow-covered hike with his friends, 13 year-old Bill Gates imagined a simple, *source code* for the one computer that was currently on loan to his middle school. The simplicity of the code allowed him to remember it for years until he was finally able to implement it, and the power of the code ended up creating a multi-billion dollar company known as Microsoft.

In this series, Source Code, we are studying Jesus' most famous collection of teachings found in Matthew chapters 5, 6 and 7. The Sermon on the Mount, in its own simplicity and power has shaped the life of every follower of Jesus for the last 2,000 years. Let's take a closer look and see what Jesus taught.

Step 02: Recap of this week's message.

Note: Read through the message outline with everyone briefly. You can stop and make comments as you see fit or read straight through it. Make sure you take time to read through the main text.

Message Title: The Humble and the Hypocrites

Main Text: Matthew 6:1-18

Supporting Texts: Ps. 136:8, Proverbs 3:34 & 29:23

Message Outline:

We continue to ask the question throughout this series, "Is the sermon on the mount shaping us?" In week 6, Jesus confronts our motives for spiritual practices and

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gives us both a liturgy and a model to pray. This triad of teaching on generosity, fasting, and prayer comes at the very heart of the SOTM and for good reason.

Read Matthew 6:1-18 aloud in your group

Key: In all three of these teachings, Jesus is addressing hypocrisy—seemingly doing things for God but only in an attempt to receive recognition from others. Instead, Jesus wants our heart and our actions aligned.

What is the price of exalting ourselves?

- 1. It distances us from God.** *He opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.* Doing things for our own recognition puts us in opposition to what God wants to do.
- 2. It hardens our heart.** We may carry on with the task, but our hearts are no longer moved by the Holy Spirit. We no longer see our own need for, nor do we freely give grace.
- 3. We become judgmental.**

*How do we combat this hypocrisy in ourselves? Look closer at “The Lord’s Prayer” → Worship, Surrender, (then**) Ask.*

We start with worship because HE deserves it and we need the perspective it offers. Then we surrender every.

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single. day. Because again, we need it and because this is what Jesus did.

Our confession: God in some way, I know there is a gap between my heart and my actions.

Our prayer: God show me my hypocrisy and lead me to repentance.

Step 03: Lead group discussion.

Note: Do your best to keep the discussion going. Make sure you have read through the questions beforehand and are primed with thoughts of your own. Make everyone get specific with *how* they will apply this message in their own lives and in community—*no vague ideas allowed!*

Specific to this week's message:

1. How did Jesus' words around hypocrisy land with you?
2. Maybe you don't pray on street corners or wear torn clothes when you fast, but have you ever found yourself doing spiritual practices in an effort to be recognized by others? Did you find that it distanced you from God or made you judgmental?
3. How can we shorten the distance between our heart and our actions (in the language of the sermon) and keep the focus of our practices on Jesus instead of ourselves?
4. Typically it is easier to see hypocrisy in others and harder to see it in ourselves. What are some ways that we can be more aware of it in our own lives?
5. Think about some of the prayers you've prayed recently. How often do you start with worship? Do you tend to spend the majority of the time asking? Are you making time to surrender?

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6. "Surrender" is a word we use often in church. What does it mean for you to surrender?
7. What is it that you find yourself surrendering (or needing to surrender)?

General questions:

8. How did this message encourage you? How did it convict you?
9. What is your plan for applying this message to your personal/daily life?
10. What might it look like for us to live this out in community?
11. Was there anything about this message that stood out to you?