

Week of March 9<sup>th</sup> - March 15<sup>th</sup>



Use the questions below to help extend the impact of the weekend message. They are not only useful in your LifeGroup, but try discussing with your family, friends, and co-workers for even greater understanding and spiritual growth.

### Prayer Requests(5 minutes)

- Take time to discuss normal life, spiritual struggles, and physical needs of the group and then spend some time praying for those specific things.

### Opening Questions (25 minutes)

- What do you think it would have been like to be around Jesus as part of His closest companions when other people weren't around?
- Why do you think there are so many examples in scripture of Jesus having direct and difficult conversation with those who consider themselves religious?
- To you, what is the difference (if any) between being religious and being the Church?
- What are you most looking for within a church family?

### Digging into the Text (25 minutes)

**Scripture Reading:** Luke 11:37-44

### Observation:

- It's clear from scripture that the Pharisees loved their symbolic religious gestures. Can you think of any "religious symbols" within Christianity today? What about within our own brotherhood?
- When we say that we don't want to hear judgementalism from the pulpit, do you think that is only because we don't want to hear others being judged, or is it also because we don't want to be judged by those around us? Is it possible at times we don't even want to be judged by God's Word?
- What are some ways that we might foster being more authentic in our spirituality and less trivial in our religion?
- Is there any area where you struggle with focusing to simplistically on the "rules of worship" instead of the "heart of worship?"
- Discuss the freedom we might find in recognizing that none of us will most likely be remembered generations from now for our religious legacy, but could positively alter many generations to come by our spiritual example.

**Prayer (5 minutes):** As a group pray for God's wisdom, knowledge, and discernment to know His ways when it comes to both religion and spirituality.