



Topeka Bible Church
"Living with an Imposter"
Community Group Study Questions
Selected passages from the Gospel of Matthew

1. Do you consider yourself to be an "imposter" (*Jeremiah 17:9*)? What does this look like in your life? How might admitting your own "imposter"-like tendencies help you in dealing with other "imposters" in your own life (*Matthew 7:3-5; Luke 18:9-14*)?

2. Why did Jesus have such a problem with people who were imposters/hypocrites? Do you ever give to God or to others in order to be noticed (*Matthew 6:1-4; 23:5*)? Why does God want us to "pray in secret" (*Matthew 6:5-6*)?

3. What is the purpose of fasting? How did some people use fasting to draw attention to themselves (*Matthew 6:16; Zechariah 7:5-6*)? What other practices or disciplines might you be tempted to boast about in order to earn praise or attention from others (*Colossians 3:23-24*)?

4. Does your "church life" differ from your "everyday life?" What does Jesus have to say about people who consistently come to church, but live disobediently the rest of the week (*Matthew 15:8-9; Isaiah 29:13*)? How should you respond (*1 Peter 3:10-12; Psalm 34:12-15*)?

5. Do you think Jesus' words to the hypocritical Pharisees are too strong (*Matthew 23:25-26*)? Is God more concerned with the "outside" or the "inside" of a person (*1 Samuel 16:7; Luke 11:39-40; Psalm 139:23-24*)?

6. How can you protect yourself from becoming like these imposters: "clean" on the outside, but filthy and "dead" on the inside (*Matthew 23:27-28; Mark 7:20-23; Romans 12:1-2*)? Who in your life can help you avoid becoming an imposter?

7. How can you effectively speak the truth in love (*Ephesians 4:15*) and challenge someone to stop living a hypocritical life (*1 Samuel 13:11, 13; 2 Samuel 12:7*)? Do you need to lovingly confront someone about their hypocrisy? How should our confrontations remind us to remain humble (*1 Corinthians 10:12; Galatians 6:1*)?

Memory Verse:

**"So you, too, outwardly appear righteous to men, but inwardly you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness."
(Matthew 23:28, NASB)**