

August 24 & 25, 2019 | Lies – week 2
Group Discussion Questions

GROUP PREP

In preparation for group, read and meditate on Acts 5:1-11 &, listen to the Weekend Service message, then answer the following discussion questions.

INTRODUCTION

In ancient Greek theatre, there were actors who put on a mask and pretended to be someone else. They called them hypocrites. Today, our description of a hypocrite is not far off. A hypocrite is someone who says one thing but acts in the opposite way so others will maintain a positive perception of them. When this is practiced in the church, we are not only lying to ourselves and others. We are lying to God.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Describe hypocrisy and some different ways you've witnessed it in the church? When have you seen major damage or hurt caused because of hypocrisy? How does it make you feel when you realize someone is being a hypocrite?

2. What stuck out to you most after reading Acts 5:1-11? What prompted Ananias to lie to the apostles?

Why was the deception created by Ananias and Sapphira within their spiritual community considered a lie to the Spirit of the Lord? What was the punishment for lying to the Spirit of the Lord? Why was the Spirit of the Lord's judgment so harsh?

Read Matthew 23:25-26. Throughout Matthew 23, you can see that Jesus spoke sternly against hypocrisy to the religious people of his day. Now read Jesus' prayer in John 17:20-23. How does lying to God (hypocrisy) work against the hope Jesus had for His church and His believers?

3. One way we can stop lying to God is to remember that our life is not about us. As a Christian, our life is about Jesus and fulfilling His mission as the church. What is the mission of the church, and how does someone's hypocrisy hinder that mission?

What practices would you suggest we use to counter the charge of hypocrisy in our own lives? How could this group best support one another to live in true and authentic spiritual community? What would we see happen if Christians got this right?

ACTION STEP

4. How have you been lying to God? What step will you take this coming week to begin overcoming the temptation to lie to God?

OUTREACH: GROUPS IN ACTION

BIRTHDAY BAGS FOR POLICE OFFICERS: We would love to honor our local law enforcement by celebrating their birthdays. Fill a birthday bag for a police officer. We provide the bags and a list of items to fill, and deliver them at the beginning of the month. We also like to provide cookies or snacks for the whole department. Pick a month that you want to help and let us know! This is a yearlong commitment that we want to show our appreciation for their service.

IMPACT TEAM: Haven't figured out yet where to serve here at Emmanuel? There are tons of opportunities to use your gifts and talents. Come to Impact 101 on September 9th! Text "101" to 65248 and we will see you at 6:30!

To find out more details about these projects or other ways your group can serve together in our community, email Breanne Schafer at [**bschafer@eclife.org**](mailto:bschafer@eclife.org)

FILL IN THE BLANKS BELOW FOR THIS UPCOMING WEEK'S ACTION STEPS.

My action step is _____.

This coming week, I will encourage _____ to complete their action step.

Their action step is _____.

My memory verse is _____.

This coming week, I will pray for the group's following prayer requests:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____