

This discussion guide is designed for Saylorville Church Community Groups as they live and learn together each week. The sermons and guides can be found at www.saylorvillechurch.com/sermons.

CONNECT WITH YOUR GROUP (10-15 MINUTES)

- Can you think of a time that you pretended to be someone you weren't? Maybe you were in a play as a child, or you dressed up for Halloween, or you played a practical joke on someone. Talk about it.
- Are there areas in your life that are more serious where you feel like you might be pretending, putting on a mask, or trying to fool people around you? Would you be honest enough to admit that right now?

APPLY THE BIBLE (45-60 MINUTES)

- **Remember** what you talked about last time. Is there anything you need to **follow up** on this week?
- **Review** your Sermon Notes together. What is **one thing** that sticks out to you about what you learned?
- **Read** this week's passage together. In his message, **Colton taught us from Scripture how to identify false teachers and pretenders in the church.**

False Teachers...:

1. ...dare to trade doctrine for "dreams" (vs. 5-7)

- How might you respond to the phrase: *What we believe impacts how we behave*. Have you seen examples of that statement in your own life? If the statement is true, how important should right doctrine be in the Christian's life? Are there areas in your life where you need to be more solid on what the Bible teaches?
- Satan loves it when Christians minimize his power. Look at 1 Peter 5:8 and Ephesians 6:11-12. How can we have a balanced view of the devil's power compared to our victory through Christ?
- Be honest - do you spend more time and energy discovering the truth from God's Word, or reading and listening to "faith-based" content? What's the danger in filling your life with resources that are simply "based" on truth instead of going to the source of truth?

2. ...divide and then devour (vs. 11-12)

- Colton warned us that pretenders build walls of division between Believers. They attack weak Christians and prey on them. What are some deadly theological "reefs" that Christians can sometimes get caught on today?
- What's at risk if we let people who don't share our same understanding of truth become members at Saylorville? Are there areas of our church doctrine that you don't understand or agree with?

3. ...don't cause ripples because they don't throw rocks (vs. 4, 10, 12, 16)

- Pretenders don't just condone sin, they treat it as an inconvenience. They don't want Believers to admit, confess, or forsake their sin. As a group, try to imagine a Community Group, a church, or a culture that doesn't care enough to confront people in their sin.
- Who are some of the people who you can count on to love you enough to "throw some rocks" when they feel like you are straying from truth?

4. ...must defect or die (vs. 14-15)

- Pretenders are Satan's spies intermingling with Christ's soldiers in the church. Jude warns us that there are people who look like Christians on the outside, but who aren't true Christ-followers. Does that describe you? Are you a pretender, or are you the real thing?

Receive and Respond: What will I do because of what I just heard?

PRAY TOGETHER (5-15 MINUTES)

- Read Romans 5:6-8 together. Who do you identify with in that passage? Respond personally in prayer.

