



Asking questions is an act of faith. Many people today are raising serious doubts about God, the Bible, and Christian beliefs. What if, instead of feeling threatened by our critics, Christians addressed the skeptic's questions as the beginning of a potentially life-changing journey? Join us as we wrestle with - and answer - some of the most profound questions that people are asking about faith today!

Group Discussion Guide: April 7th

Hey leaders! We are super excited to introduce this brand-new series! Pastor Eric and I envision this as a training series to equip the saints to share their faith! The focus over the next 5 weeks is not going to be making us the smartest people in the room or arguing people to faith in Jesus, rather we want to help give you the tools to have better, more heartfelt conversations with nonbelievers. Every week we will tackle a major question that the world is asking, provide an answer, and also help empower your group members to share their faith with a world that needs it. This will be the last study of the spring semester so let's finish strong! (The last meeting has been pushed back to Sunday, May 12)

Opening Question - Think about a time when you engaged in a meaningful and/or intense conversation about faith and doubt. Maybe you were a Christian having a discussion with a skeptic, or perhaps you were the skeptic, grilling a believer. How did that conversation go? What went well, what didn't, and why?

Personal Answer

Read Matthew 28:16-20. This passage illustrates Jesus' mandate that his followers should go and make disciples of all nations. How does this mandate apply to us today in a culture where "evangelism" and "proselytizing" are discouraged? Why do you think so many Christians are uncomfortable rising to Jesus' invitation?

In our current culture, Christians can be shamed for trying to share their faith and can also be accused of wild charges like imperialism or colonialism. Non-believers will ridicule Christians for sharing their faith and point back at Church history and mention things like the Crusades and Catholic missionaries who forced conversions on natives in North and South America. We can agree that in the past some of the church's evangelism has been flawed and manipulative, but that doesn't mean we should stop now! The funny thing is, some secular people who roast Christians for

trying to share their faith, are the same exact people who are forcing others to accept their beliefs/worldviews.

According to Barna Research Group, [Almost Half of Practicing Christian Millennials Say Evangelism Is Wrong](#) and at the same time [Just 12% of Pastors Say They Are Very Effective in Encouraging Christians to Share Their Faith](#). Check out both of these articles for more info on the state of evangelism. As a whole, the church has dropped the ball on talking about the significance of evangelism and training up their congregations in share.

In **Matthew 5:13-14**, Jesus told his followers, “You are the salt of the earth...” and “saltiness” can be a helpful analogy for Christian evangelism today. Let’s think about the word “**SALT**” as our framework to have more heartfelt conversations.

Salt is used for cleaning, seasoning, enhancing, preserving, and more. What is so cool about salt is it changes everything it touches. Christians should be the exact same way! Whenever we walk into a room we should be thermostats, not thermometers. We don’t just read the temperature of the room, we change it! Don’t lose your saltiness!

Show up (and keep showing up)!

Read Romans 10:13-14. Why is “showing up” such an important first step toward having more heartfelt conversations? Why do you think many Christians find it hard to “show up” for these conversations?

Showing up takes time and effort. You cannot just show up once, to make an impact takes consistency. This means both physically and emotionally, time after time.

This verse in Romans reminds us that people cannot know Christ if no one tells them about Him! We are called to prioritize evangelism, and simply make time to show up in people's lives. Just showing up and being non-combative will make an impact. The secular world expects Christians to be salty and act superior, but if we are the opposite and show up humbly, ready to listen that will go a long way. No one cares about how much you know until they know how much you care. Everyone was made in the image of God and starting by seeing people through that lens will help you show up even among people who are hard to deal with.

Ask Questions and Listen!

Read Proverbs 18:13. Can you think of a time when you asked a really good question that ended up turning into a great conversation? What did you ask? Why are questions like this so transformational?

Personal Answer - hopefully people can share a time they asked a powerful question that started a great conversation! I love this Proverb, to talk before listening to someone is silly! It's sometimes hard to listen, especially when people are spouting off crazy talk or being offensive against what we believe as Christ followers. Listening is Hard! It requires patience, sitting with tension, and dealing with some unanswered questions.

The best way to get a faith conversation flowing and to get to the heart of an issue is by asking really good questions. That's what Jesus did! Questions are transformational because they get people thinking. Far too much evangelism today is about preaching, throwing data and information at people, and hoping they don't ask any questions you don't know the answer to. The issue is transformation rarely happens through a monologue. If you are doing all the talking in a faith conversation it's not only more pressure on you, but it also can feel like a beating from the listener's perspective. Instead, the more you can get the other person talking the better! [Here is a short article on asking questions](#) and a [longer video from an author who has a few books on the topic.](#)

Lift them up in prayer!

Read Matthew 9:37-38. What role should prayer play in our efforts to have more heartfelt conversations with unbelievers? What happens when we forget this step?

Also, check out 1 Corinthians 3:4-9. We all have different roles to play in the evangelism process. You will not always be the one who sees the come to Jesus moment or the baptism, and that's okay. All of us believers are on the same team, and it often takes many different touchpoints before someone truly meets Jesus. Prayer will help us remember that evangelism, is not all on our shoulders! God is the one who is ultimately in charge of this process. His Holy Spirit makes the moves in and through us.

When we fail to pray we put all the pressure on ourselves. We feel like a failure when they do not accept. When trying to be SALT we need to talk to God about this person as much as we talk to this person about God.

Tell Your Story!

Read 2 Corinthians 5:20. Have you ever shared your salvation story with a skeptic/unbeliever? If so, how did it go? If not, what is holding you back?

What a powerful passage! God makes his appeal through us! The best way to do this is through personal stories. Weaving our own life experiences into the incredible Story of Jesus, his life, death and resurrection. I hope your group can share stories of how they have done this successfully in the past!

As a “case study”, let’s think about one of the most common questions that many skeptics are asking these days. ***“Why do we need God at all?”***

Once you “show up” for the conversation, what questions might you ask the person who doubts that believing in God matters at all?

Just a few examples - Did you grow up in Church? Tell me about your family. How do you define Good? What is your purpose? Tell me the top 5% of your life right now and the bottom 5%. What is driving and motivating you to move forward? Who or where do you go when things get tough and you aren’t enough? What is your why? How is your heart?

How would you pray for someone who has such doubts about the difference that faith makes?

Pray for focus, patience, discernment, maturity, confidence, and boldness on your part as you share. Pray that God would open their eyes to see their need for him, and how God’s grace has already surrounded them. You can ask God to surround them with other believers who can help encourage them to seek God.

How might you tell your faith story in a way that specifically responds to this question, and that illustrates the difference that faith has made in your life?

Personal Answer - the key is being transparent and honest about your own story. Maybe tie in how your goodness at some point was not enough, and once you really saw the depth of your sins you realized you needed a savior outside of yourself.

**Please help us advertise the Women’s Retreat and
upcoming partnership course :D**

News & Events:



All Women Are Invited: Women's Retreat

On Saturday, May 11 (10am to 2:30pm), we're excited to host a special women's retreat with guest speaker, Wendy Speake! This retreat is open to women of ALL ages and will include worship, fellowship, a beautiful craft to take home after, and two sessions with Wendy. Register: thestory.church/retreat



Upcoming Partnership Course

If you're ready to commit to The Story Church as a Partner, our next three-week course begins on Monday, April 15 at 6:30pm. Visit this link to learn what it means to be a Partner and register for an upcoming course.: thestory.church/partnership



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Group Discussion Guide: April 14

Opening Question - Let's begin with everybody's favorite icebreaker game: 2 *Truths and a Lie*. Each person in the group should think of two interesting things about themselves that are TRUE and fabricate one LIE as well. After each person shares their "three things", the rest of the group can try to guess which one is the lie.

[Personal Answer](#)

We're going to be thinking and talking about TRUTH today. Try and think of something that you once believed to be true, but you no longer do. Write about it here, and if you're comfortable, share it with your group.

[Personal Answer](#)

A recent Gallup poll reported that 2 out of 3 Americans believe *there is no such thing as absolute truth*. Why do you think belief in the concept of objective truth is on the decline today, and what might some of the consequences of this sort of *relativism* be?

[Today's culture embraces the idea that everything is relative. Truth is personal, not absolute, universal, or objective. Truth is only whatever is beneficial or 'true' to you. This has led to a situation where sentimentality and emotions are more important than facts..](#)

[Many have called this a "post-truth" world. In fact in 2016 it was the Oxford Dictionaries word of the year! Post-truth means - Facts are now less influential in shaping public opinion than appeals to emotion and personal belief.](#)

Abdu Murray in his book on Christianity in this context described post truth this way - *“A “culture of confusion.” We elevate individual preferences over truth. We also elevate individual autonomy (freedom from constraints) over true freedom (freedom within constraints). Whereas autonomy is the freedom to make any choice, according to preference, true freedom is making the right choice, according to truth.”*

The consequences are pretty drastic. Our young people are confused, and there is a growing sense of dread and hopelessness amongst the youngest generations. We are more divided than ever, and it's now difficult to even have civil discourse. If we don't have a baseline of truth we all agree upon, how can we make decisions as a community, nation, or society?

Read *Isaiah 59:14-16* as a group.

In this passage God is dismayed at the lack of truth and justice in Israel. It's gone missing, and those who try to shun evil become the prey of the wicked. The good news is in this world where Truth seems lost had God intervened for us and become truth in human flesh - Jesus. Truth is a person through Christ.

Read John 18:28-38. What do we know about Pontius Pilate?

Pontius Pilate was not Jewish, but a foreigner who was named the Rome prefect over Judea. He ruled from 26 AD – 36 AD in Jerusalem. Pilot did not come from wealth and was not given this role due to nepotism. Pilate actually came from a region called Samnium in Central Italy, which had a reputation for its stubborn resistance to Roman rule. This fact makes it remarkable that he would choose to enter the roman military, yet it appears he gained respect and notoriety through his military career. To go from a low ranking soldier to mid ranking roman official over a large region was a huge accomplishment, but Pilate likely wanted more.

The Governor of Judea was not the most prestigious outpost in the empire. It was far from Rome and seen as a backwater post with a history of conflict and unrest. Looking at Pilate's ascension it is easy to view him as ambitious and an opportunist. He worked hard and achieved to get where he was.

What is so extraordinary about his three-word question, “What is truth?”
What might have motivated a man like Pontius Pilate to ask such a question?

The Truth had become negotiable for Pilate. The evil empire that his ancestors hated had become his employer. He lived a divided life of confusion, and sacrificing the truth whenever it was convenient. His question to Jesus reveals a man who is jaded and no longer knows which way is up due to compromise after compromise.

Have you ever been in a similar head-space as Pilate was in this story - conflicted and confused about even an elementary concept like *truth*? If not, perhaps you’ve known someone who has. How do otherwise intelligent people wind up denying the obvious, common-sense reality of truth itself? This is where last week’s *SALT* acronym may come in handy. **As a reminder, the purpose of this series isn’t simply to provide Christians with factual talking points, but to equip us to have more heartfelt conversations with unbelievers about God.** Last week we learned that, in these conversations, it can be helpful to remember to:

- S. SHOW UP!**
- A. ASK QUESTIONS & LISTEN!**
- L. LIFT THEM UP IN PRAYER!**
- T. TELL YOUR STORY!**

Oftentimes, when we take the time to show up, ask questions, and listen, people will share with us the deeper reasons for their resistance to the concept of absolute Truth. Here are three common reasons people often reject objective Truth claims:

- 1. PEER PRESSURE.** Think of one example you’ve seen of a person who denied the Truth because they wanted to be accepted (or they feared being rejected) by others.

Read Matthew 16:26 and Proverbs 4:14-15 as a group. America is a pressure cooker for young people today. To call Jesus The Truth comes with a cost whether you are young or old. To stand up for Jesus is dangerous, but infinitely worth it. We can only save our life if we lose it for Jesus’ sake!

2. PERSONAL PREFERENCE. How might a person's patterns of sin deceive them into believing that truth is relative?

Read Romans 1:25 and John 10:10. One reason people refuse to accept Jesus as the Truth is they still enjoy their sins a little too much, or they are chained to them. Sin by nature wants to deceive, kill, destroy, and primarily keep us away from the Truth.

3. PAST PAIN. How can the trauma of our past distort our understanding of Truth?

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:14-15. Most of the time people reject the Truth because they have been hurt by Christians, the church, or just in general people who were supposed to protect them. This pain is devastating and long lasting serving as a barrier to faith. In cases like this we have to do our best to be SALT. We are called to listen to their story carefully and minister to their needs. When people are hurt it will be difficult to convince them of the Truth, instead they will need to experience the Truth - Jesus Christ.

Read John 8:32. What is the Gospel's answer to our culture's anti-Truth epidemic?

Jesus is the Truth. He will set us free from the peer pressure, personal preference of our sin, and even past pain and hurt.

Why does it matter that, according to Christianity, TRUTH is a Person (as opposed to a platform, political ideology, religion, etc.)? What difference does it make?

Platforms, political ideologies, programs, and even religions will eventually fail. Even the best systems crumble under the weight of human sin. Instead of subscribing to one of these systems, we find Truth in a relationship with our perfect savior Jesus Christ. Instead of us seeking truth out ourselves, the Truth has already sought you out, and even died for you! The Truth isn't a cold, rigid system. The Truth loves you, wants to know you, and make sense of your story within His.

How has knowing Jesus as a person changed your understanding of Truth?
Personal Answer



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Group Discussion Guide: April 21

If you look back through your life has your view of the Bible changed over time? When did you trust the Bible the most, and why?

Personal Answer

Why should anyone trust the Bible?

According to a recent Gallup poll, around **30%** of all Americans believe that the Bible "is a collection of legends, fables, history, and moral precepts recorded by man,". Only **20%** of Americans believe the Bible is "the actual word of God and is to be taken literally", and **50%** believe that the Bible is "inspired by God" but is not to be taken literally. Which category would you say you're in today, and why?

Personal Answer - As the group leader, make sure to leave space for people to answer this question honestly. Everyone in your group might not be on the same page. If we want to inspire non-religious people to follow Jesus, that means we might have some skeptics in the room who think the Bible is full of legends that inspire moral living. Hopefully this lesson will change their view!

If you struggle with this idea of taking the Bible literally, Pastor Eric shared a better question we could ask: What do you mean by literal? If literal means every single rule and line has to be followed to a tee, then yeah, it would be hard for anyone to 100% take the Bible literally. If that's that case, we should greet believers with a holy kiss!

To Pastor Eric taking the Bible Literally means - every book, page, and word is the inspired Word of God that is 100% true. We cannot pick and choose which parts of the Bible to obey, we submit to all of it through the lens of Jesus and the Gospel. We are not in control of what is true and what is not, all of it is God's inspired Truth.

Let's examine what the Bible says about...*the Bible!* **Read 2 Timothy 3:16 and Hebrews 4:12.** What do these passages say about Scripture, and how should this shape the way Christians approach the Bible?

Read 2 Timothy 3:16 - All of the Bible is inspired, literally breathed by God, and useful for solid doctrine, teaching, correcting us of our errors, and making us more like Jesus!

Read Hebrews 4:12 - The Word of God is living and active. When we read the Bible the Holy Spirit uses the Word to move in our hearts. It's not a dead, old, or irrelevant book! The Bible finds new ways to teach and convict us every time we read it, even if it's a passage we have heard before.

Read 2 Peter 3:16 - While the New Testament books and letters were being composed contemporaries saw other apostles writing as Scripture! The Bible didn't gain its authority through later church councils, but from the moment it was being written down other believers could see the divine wisdom of God in it.

Think for a moment about your most skeptical friends and family (or perhaps even yourself): what are some of their (or your) most pressing questions or objections when it comes to the Bible?

Personal Answer

If people have issues on the way the Bible was put together or its historical validity we actually have very solid evidence to answer their questions! [Here is a very solid short document that shows the historical support for Scripture!](https://www.thecollegechurch.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/HANDOUTS-Is-Scripture-Reliable.pdf) (<https://www.thecollegechurch.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/HANDOUTS-Is-Scripture-Reliable.pdf>)

If people have issues about God supporting slavery in the Bible we have a quick and easy defense. When the American slave traders gave their slaves Bibles "*About 90 percent of the Old Testament was missing and 50 percent of the New Testament*". Clearly a ton was removed from Exodus all the way to Jesus' first sermon where he quoted from Isaiah and promised to set the captives free. If you read the Bible from cover to cover it is clearly not pro slavery!

If people think the Bible is anti-women, we can point them to Genesis 1. God made male AND FEMALE in His image. In that time this simple claim that women were made in God's image was revolutionary, and sets up other passages that might not always seem like it, but were truly progressive for the time.

[Here is another quick pdf document that talks about women in the Bible, and partially ministry today. \(https://www.baylor.edu/truett/doc.php/144245.pdf\)](https://www.baylor.edu/truett/doc.php/144245.pdf)

One of the most common objections to the Bible stems from the morally objectionable material it seems to contain and promote. For example, **read Psalm 137:9**. What does this verse of Scripture appear to be saying?

God is condoning His people murdering babies by dashing them on the rocks.

Now read the rest of Psalm 137. What is this Psalm really about in context?

The Bible is full of examples of God extending mercy and promising justice to people who've been brutally oppressed. (ex., Psalm 34:18, Deut 27:19, Isaiah 61:8, Luke 4:18-19) How should this change the way we understand Psalm 137:9 as part of God's Word?

When this song/poem was written the Israelites were in exile. They had lost their homes, families, and were being mocked and beaten by their captors in a foreign land. They probably didn't even make this violent act up, they likely witnessed the Babylonians savagely murdering their very own Children.

This chapter shows us that God will let his people vent, lash out, and voice their pain and suffering. God did not command them to dash babies on the rocks, this was simply the Israelites processing the pain they were experiencing. God was willing to wait with them in the pain.

He answered their cries when He sent Jesus, who is the image of the invisible God, to rescue them. Jesus is the clearest picture of who God is, and He came to save us and teach us to live a different way - to love our enemies and forgive. In Jesus we see the character of God, and all the Bible should be read through this lens. Psalm 137 is not advice on how to live our lives or an attitude we should emulate, but part of the grand story of God's people and God's ultimate plan of redemption!

Some attempt to discredit or diminish the Bible by suggesting that Jesus, and not the Bible, is the Word of God. So, which is it: is the Bible the Word of God, or is it Jesus? Both? Neither? Why? (ref. John 1:1, 14, Matthew 5:17-19)

Read John 1:1, 14 and Matthew 5:17-19. In John 1 we see Jesus is clearly the Word of God! When we read on to see how Jesus talked about the Scriptures He always lifted them up and treated them as Holy. In Matthew 5 He said I have not come to abolish the OT but fulfill it! Jesus never discounted, diminished, or deflected from the Scriptures, instead at every opportunity He lifted them up! If the Word, Jesus, accepted the Bible as truthful and authoritative then it is good enough for me!

Most Christians would say they trust Jesus because “the Bible tells me so.” While this is perfectly valid, others have come to trust the Bible because *Jesus tells me so*. What is the difference, and why is this so important - especially in our present age of skepticism and cynicism about religion?

Submission is difficult, especially to a book. Some people who really struggle to surrender themselves to the Bible, need to first surrender to the person of Jesus. Then, once we fall in love with Jesus and submit everything we have over to Him, He will begin to reveal the Truth of Scripture to us. For many, like Pastor Eric, they will have to fall in love with Jesus first, before they can begin to understand the Bible.

I can echo this idea in my own personal journey as well. There are parts of the Bible that my flesh doesn't like. There have been parts that seemed out of date or irrelevant in our world today. When I began to be discipled by Goldy men and then disciple others the more some of those messy parts started to make sense. It wasn't through more knowledge or education that the Bible became clearer, but actually through following Jesus!

How can you apply S.A.L.T. to your conversations with people who struggle to accept and understand the Bible?

Personal Answer

News & Events:



All Women Are Invited: Women's Retreat

On Saturday, May 11 (10am to 2:30pm), we're excited to host a women's retreat with Wendy Speake! This retreat is open to women of ALL ages and will include worship, fellowship, a beautiful craft to take home after, and two sessions with Wendy. Register: thestory.church/retreat



Parents Night Out

Take the night off while your kids hang with our StoryKids team! Friday May 17 from 5:30-8:30pm for children ages 3-10 Register for \$15 per child today: thestory.church/pno



Summer Discipleship at The Story

Registration is open for our summer discipleship efforts for all ages, including VBS, student camps, and our adult weekly Bible study for six weeks. Learn more and register today: thestory.church/summer



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Discussion Guide: May 5, 2024

THIS IS YOUR LAST MEETING :(

I hope you had a great season! Please try and schedule two social outings with your group this summer to keep the group close between June - August. We will officially pick back up again Sunday, September 8th. Also please plan on attending our end of year gather after church on Sunday, May 19th from 12-1:30.

“Why are Christians So Un-Christian?”

What is hypocrisy, generally? More specifically, what is “Christian hypocrisy”?

A hypocrite is a person who believes and says one thing but does another.

A Christian hypocrite would be someone who believes Jesus is their savior and model on how to live, but their lives look nothing like Him. You believe in your heart, but you betray with your actions. A Christian hypocrite can have great theology, but bad behavior.

How have you seen the negative or damaging effects of Christian hypocrisy in your life and/or in the lives of people you know? What happened?

Personal Answer

85% of secular people think Christians are hypocrites

47% of Christians think Christians are hypocrites

What are the two types of Christian hypocrisy identified in the Bible?

1. Hypocrisy before **Man**. (see Matthew 6:1)
2. Hypocrisy before **God**. (see 2 Timothy 3:5)

What are the temptations and dangers of each type of hypocrisy?

Hypocrisy is one of the top reasons why people walk away from the church. As Dwight L. Moody said - "Out of 100 men, one will read the Bible, the other 99 will read the Christian. The Bible was not given for our information but for our transformation." Many people won't give Jesus a shot or pick up a Bible because they are so turned off by His believers. Hypocrisy is a massive barrier that makes it more difficult for people to have a life changing experience with Jesus. For this reason alone we as christian should take this question seriously.

When we are hypocrites before God it takes away the power and fruit of our faith. We become mere intellectual christians and miss out on the true transformational power of the Gospel.

What are some potential pitfalls of calling out Christian hypocrisy?

We are all hypocrites by default if we are sinful people trying to follow a perfect God. Just like a hospital is full of sick people, the church is full of hypocrites. It's much easier to see and call out other people's sins than grapple with your own. If you don't think you are a hypocrite, you likely are.

Read Matthew 7:3-5. What stands out to you about Jesus' teaching on hypocrisy?

We always have to look at ourselves in the mirror first, and be real and confessional about our own sin before we can ever call out other believers.

We like to think of Jesus as being a super chill and nice guy, but he goes to town against hypocrisy. He doesn't pull punches, Jesus knows that his church will be full of hypocrites. He wants to make us aware of this problem. He hates hypocrisy, but He also loves hypocrites, like you.

Read Matthew 23:13-28. What habits or tendencies did Jesus call out in this lengthy anti-hypocrisy diatribe?

Jesus calls out tithing, rituals, someone who goes through the motions, blind leading the blind, we are white washed tombs that look good on the outside but dead on the inside, and more!

How can Christians fight hypocrisy?

1. Humility, before God (See James 4:10)
How does humility help to destroy hypocrisy?

By owning our hypocrisy, not hiding it, we can move forward with God. All prayers should start with I am sorry, recognizing, and repenting of our sin.

2. Honesty, before people (See Proverbs 28:13)

How can honesty about our sins disable hypocrisy's power?

When we conceal our sins it leads to moral and spiritual decay. When we are honest about our sin it not only leads to healing, but our sins or scars, become testimonies to God's grace that helps others!

James 5:16 says "Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective." There is real power in vulnerability. When one person is vulnerable and honest about their sin it creates a chain reaction.

Hypocrisy pushes people away, but honesty brings others closer in.

3. Holiness (Read 1 Peter 1:16)

How is the pursuit of holiness a hypocrisy killer?

The contrast between God's holiness and our sinfulness is not a free pass for hypocrisy. Time and time again we are called to be Holy because God is holy. (*Leviticus 21:8; Exodus 19:6; 1 Peter 1:16*)

To be holy does not mean to be more religious, it means to be more like Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit. We should not be passive in our war against hypocrisy, but day by day seek God and to be more like Him. We will find the closer we are to Jesus the more we realize how hypocritical we truly are, but this type of spiritual maturity miraculously leads to honesty and humility that actually leads to greater holiness.

Take a moment to consider some of the specific ways you've been hypocritical. If you're studying alone, confess your hypocrisy to God. **If you are in a group, take this opportunity to courageously confess your hypocrisy to one another.**

This is our last meeting this spring. I hope your group is close enough to be real and vulnerable with this question and confess the ways in which we have fallen short. Leaders you might have to open this conversation up.

Throughout this series, we've tried to apply "S.A.L.T." (Matthew 5:13) to our interactions with unbelievers in hopes of pursuing more heartfelt conversations. To jog your memory, "S.A.L.T." is:

- S. SHOW UP!**
- A. ASK QUESTIONS & LISTEN!**
- L. LIFT THEM UP IN PRAYER!**
- T. TELL YOUR STORY!**

When it comes specifically to those who struggle with today's question about the hypocrisy of Christians, how can you apply S.A.L.T. to your conversations with them?

S - show up to the meeting and acknowledge that yes we have always been and will be hypocrites, Don't argue around it, accept it.

A - ask how they have witnessed or been affected by Christian hypocrisy. Maybe even talk about other areas of life they see it - families, work, politics

L - pray that they would look past how bad christians are, so that they can see how good God is!

T - Be honest and admit the ways you are a hypocrite, and how all of this stories just point to God's glory!