

Use these questions and resources during your study time or with your group.

RECAP: Authenticity matters more than religious performance. God calls us to be real and live out our faith, not just talk about it.

MAIN POINTS

- Stop trying to out-god God.
- Let go of pretense.
- Stop trying to go “deeper” - go “lower”.

GETTING STARTED

- When's a time you totally *faked it 'til you made it*—and it either worked out... or totally didn't?

SCRIPTURE

- [Acts 15:1-10; Matthew 11:28-29; Acts 15:19; James 1:22-25](#)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- In what areas of your life are you tempted to “out-god God”—to take control, judge others, or carry burdens that aren't yours to carry? What would it look like to step back and simply be a *witness* instead—to share your story and trust God with the rest?
- What are some ways we tend to hide behind pretense—trying to look more put together or “spiritual” than we really are? What might it look like for you to be more real with God and with others this week, and trust Him to transform you from the inside out?
- When you think about “going deeper” in your faith, is your first instinct to learn more... or to love more? What would it look like for you to go *lower* this week—through serving, sacrificing, or stepping into someone else's mess—and how might that actually lead to real spiritual growth?

APPLICATION

- What's one area of your life where you've been tempted to pretend—before God or others? What would it look like this week to drop the mask and choose authenticity instead, even if it feels uncomfortable?
- Living authentically doesn't mean being perfect—it means being honest. What's one practical step you can take this week to be more open about your struggles—maybe through a conversation, a prayer, or simply admitting where you need help?

RESOURCES

- “What we **do** with what we believe is what really matters.”