

## Conversation Starters

- How much attention, resources, and time do you think you spend on getting ready for each day?
- Do you ever feel like you give too much time to it?

## Discuss

**We all give some amount of energy or resources to the things that are important to us – physical appearance, work, hobbies, extracurricular activities, beliefs, etc. That usually shapes our image, or who we are or appear to be to the world.**

- What do you give your time to?
- How do you think culture influences this?
- Do you think most people would know that about you?

**Sometimes, intentionally or unintentionally, we can do those things for the wrong reasons. It can happen when we simply want to appear a certain way, even though we don't necessarily agree with it. Or it can happen subtly and we just keep doing things without even thinking or realizing it. When this happens, we are giving in to hypocrisy.**

- Why do you give your time to the things that you do?
- Do you realize why when you are doing it?
- Is there something right now that you think you could stop doing and it really not affect you?

**Jesus challenged us to think about this for our spiritual lives. When we give to others, pray and fast. He challenged us to authenticity, to be real in our relationship with God, not worrying about what other people think.**

*“When you give to someone in need, don't do as the hypocrites do—blowing trumpets in the synagogues and streets to call attention to their acts of charity!... When you pray, don't be like the hypocrites who love to pray publicly on street corners and in the synagogues where everyone can see them... And when you fast, don't make it obvious, as the hypocrites do, for they try to look miserable and disheveled so people will admire them for their fasting...” (Matthew 6:2,5,16 NLT)*

- Are you a public worshiper or a private one too?
- Do you hear Scripture at church, but not alone at home?
- When was the last time you prayed alone?
- Do you know God? Or just know about him?
- Do you go through Christian public motions, but not privately?

## Next Steps

Take 15 minutes to think about your relationship with God.

- Where do I stand?
- What am I doing to grow in my relationship?
- What is God teaching me right now?
- What do I need to start or stop doing?

Write out your answers to these questions. Explore these classes as a next step:

### **Exploring the Bible**

Date: October 22, 2018

Time: 7:00 – 8:30 PM

Location: North Charlotte Campus, 8335 Browne Road Charlotte, Charlotte, NC US 28269

Register: <https://mecklenburg.org/event/855439-2018-10-22-exploring-the-bible/>

### **Made for More**

Date: November 19, 2018

Time: 6:30 – 8:00 PM

Location: North Charlotte Campus, 8335 Browne Road Charlotte, Charlotte, NC US 28269

Register: <https://mecklenburg.org/event/860442-2018-11-19-made-for-more/>

## Further Reflection

*See Matthew 6:1-18.*

## Pray

God, thank you for the way that we are being challenged through Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. None of us want to live a life that isn't real, especially when it comes to a relationship with you. Help us to take off any masks that we may have to the world, and just focus on who we are in your eyes and to take the steps we need to grow in knowing you better. Help us to use our time and energy and resources with you in mind, not what others think about us.