

Tips and Tricks:

The sermon notes are designed to be used as a guide for discussion. Don't feel like you have to use every question. Some questions will take a while to work through and others will be over in a few seconds.

1. Don't teach the lesson. The sermon was just preached. Just ask the questions and let everyone else talk.
2. Let other people ask questions. It's OK to go "off topic" for a while. Sometimes those conversations are more interesting anyway!
3. Have fun. Don't forget to laugh and crack up. Relationships, not curriculum, are the heartbeat of our ministry. Remember: We have to build a relational bridge strong enough to hold the truth!

Agenda for Group Time

1. Ice Breaker - Lighthearted ice breaker question (10 minutes)
2. Discussion - Bible study, sharing and application. (25 Minutes)
3. Prayer - Pray together (5 minutes)
4. Planning - Remember to talk about what's coming up.

Icebreaker

Question: When you were a kid, what were the hot buttons that you would push to get under your parent's skin?

Read Luke 20:45 - 21:4

A Religion that's Fake

For Discussion: Look around Chapter 20. Who has Jesus been speaking to? (Luke 20:1; 20:9; 20:19; 20:27)

Who is Jesus speaking to in 20:45? Who can hear? Why is this important?

Question: The Issue of authority has been prominent for all of Chapter 20. Why do you think Jesus continues to challenge the people in authority?

What accusations does Jesus make about the scribes? Why do these accusations undermine the scribe's authority?

When have you "used" religion to get something for yourself?

- Attention
- Favor from other people
- Good Feelings
- Business relationships
- To make myself feel better than others
- Other: _____

Question: Jesus says that the scribes "devour widow's houses". What does that mean? Why do you think Jesus uses the example of widows? Why do you think the way we treat the helpless says something about our relationship with God?

A Faith that's Genuine

[1] Jesus looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the offering box, [2] and he saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins.

Question: Why do you think Jesus noticed the poor widow when all the rich were also giving gifts?

How does Jesus explain that the widow was actually giving more than the rich?

Question: How does this poor widow illustrate this verse:

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. -Matthew 5:3

So in this statement, and also what we see with this widow.... is that Jesus is saying that you are blessed by God if you are "poor in spirit," that means God blesses us when we acknowledge our "spiritual bankruptcy."

Why is it so difficult for us to acknowledge that we are spiritually poor?

- Pride
- Indifference
- Comparison with other people
- We tell ourselves that we aren't that bad because we don't cheer for the Wisconsin Badgers in football.
- Other: _____

How is it comforting to know that God blesses us when we acknowledge our spiritual bankruptcy?

Work It Out!

One thing I'll do differently because of this sermon:
