

Relational Vampires

Hypocritical People

Key Scriptures

Outwardly you look like righteous people, but inwardly your hearts are filled with hypocrisy and lawlessness. Matthew 23:28 NLT

*Whoever says, "I know him," but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person.
1 John 2:4 NIV*

*... I could not address you as people who live by the Spirit but as people who are still worldly—mere infants in Christ.
1 Corinthians 3:1 NIV*

For you are free, yet you are God's slaves, so don't use your freedom as an excuse to do evil. 1 Peter 2:16 NLT

For certain individuals ... pervert the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord. Jude 1:4 NIV

*Dear brothers and sisters, if another believer is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path. And be careful not to fall into the same temptation yourself.
Galatians 6:1 NLT*

David burned with anger against the man and said to Nathan, "As surely as the LORD lives, the man who did this must die! He must pay for that lamb four times over, because he did such a thing and had no pity." Then Nathan said to David, "You are the man! ..." 2 Samuel 12:5-7 NIV

*Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.
Psalm 51:10-12 NIV*

... if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring that person back, remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of their way will save them from death and cover over a multitude of sins. James 5:19-20 NIV

Start talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- How would you define hypocrisy in your own words?
- What's the opposite of a hypocrite?

Start thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- What's a good example of confronting with the goal of restoration?

Start sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- Read Matthew 18:15-17. How does Jesus' way help protect you from hypocrisy?
- Have you ever been a part of a healthy confrontation that led to restoration? What made it work?
- Share about an area of hypocrisy you've discovered in your own life. What did you or will you do about it?

Start praying. Be bold and pray with power.

Good Father, give us pure hearts. Reclaim our deepest thoughts and motivations. Stay close to us, Holy Spirit, and restore the joy of our salvation. Give us humble spirits centered on Your love rather than the faults of others. If there's someone you want us to gently restore, lend us the humility and grace we need. Amen!

Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- How will you change the way you confront others? Are there any relationships you need to begin to restore?
- Pick one of this week's key Scriptures and make it a reminder in your phone. Spend a few minutes repeating it and thinking about it each day.