**Growth Group Questions**

What does Jesus warn his disciples to beware of?

Why does he call it leaven (yeast)? How does leaven work? How is this a good picture of the way hypocrisy works in our lives?

How would you define hypocrisy? Consider some of these verses in your definition: Matthew 7:5; Luke 6:42; Luke 13:15; 1 Timothy 5:24-25. Especially consider the actions of Peter and Barnabas in Galatians 2:11-14.

Read vv. 2-3. Why is hypocrisy foolish but also dangerous?

What fear alluded to in v.4 can motivate a hypocrite to act as other people want him to act?

According to v.5, what kind of healthy fear can prevent hypocrisy? See 1Jn 4:18 & Prov. 1:7

Why does Jesus refuse to accept secret disciples who will not acknowledge Him in public? See vv.8-10.

How does God equip us to publicly acknowledge Him even when it is risky to do so?

What do you think Jesus meant by “...the one who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven”? Compare Matt.12:31-32 and Mark 3:28-30.

In light of v.9, who was Jesus speaking of?