



# fellowship church

## Sermon Discussion Guide

Feb 15, 2026 - Riley Neal

### Discussion Starter

- Riley mentioned there being two kinds of people: rule-follower or rule-breaker. With which do you most identify & why?
  - When Riley asked which villain gets under your skin, what villain came to mind for you and why?
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### Reflection Questions

- Why did the Pharisees struggle to see not only their own hypocrisy, but also their lack of spiritual health?
  - How were the Pharisees misunderstanding how they were doing relationally with God?
  - Why is it important to rely more on God's Word rather than man-made rules?
  - Why are we often quick to point fingers at the Pharisees in this passage but slow to identify with them?
  - If we are not clean enough on our own to approach God, why does God want us to come to Him? How do we know He wants us to come to Him?
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### Application Questions

- (Personal) What Scripture or biblical truths do you think are most impactful for having a right understanding of what it means to be spiritually healthy? In other words, what is spiritual health?
- What barriers in your life might be keeping you from examining your spiritual health and your relationship with God? What barriers may keep you from sharing this with others?
- (Communal) What intentional questions could you ask a brother/sister in Christ to care for their spiritual health? Can you think of someone to whom you personally could ask these questions?
- (Missional) What spiritual health questions could you use in sharing the Gospel with others? (Example: in a spiritual conversation you can ask someone who isn't a believer "do you find it easier or more difficult to forgive others?")

This week's guide written by: Lauren and Joel Purvis

## Tips for Group Leaders

- DO ask open-ended questions. DON'T ask questions where a short "right" answer ends the discussion.
- DO encourage mutual participation by every group member. DON'T feel the need to respond or weigh in after every contribution. Avoid monologuing. As the leader, your goal is to facilitate mutual discussion between all group members (Eph 4:15–16).
- DO ask follow-up questions: "What do you mean by that?" "Tell me more!" "Has anyone else experienced something similar (or different)?"
- DO feel free to pick and choose questions that are a good fit for your group. DON'T feel the need to get through every question, and don't worry if you spend most of your time on a few questions that generate a lot of good discussion.
- DO keep the main thing the main thing. Steer your conversation toward the main theme of the sermon and the biblical text. DON'T get sidetracked on less important matters, theological debates, etc. A rabbit trail might sometimes be worth pursuing—if group members are wrestling deeply with the implications of biblical truth for their lives. Otherwise, steer conversation back to the main topic.
- DO get into the text. It could be helpful to read over the passage together or ask questions directly related to the text. Help group members engage the text for themselves and respond to what they see there.
- DO revisit important moments from the sermon—a memorable story, an impactful quote, a convicting point of application. "Remember when pastor X talked about Y? What impression did that make on you?"
- DO allow space for reflection, silence, and thoughtful answers. DON'T feel that you need to jump in or ask a new question just because the group has been quiet for a few seconds. A good rule of thumb is to wait until the silence gets awkward, then count silently to ten before jumping in.
- DO bring discussions home to practical, concrete everyday life. DON'T let discussion and application stay in the abstract realm. Steer discussion toward *what does responding to this sermon look like for me?* If comments are vague or general, ask "what would that look like, practically?"