

What a Hypocrite!

By Jolene Roehlkepartain

As teenagers grow and develop, they're quick to point out when people act differently from what they say. They can be especially hard on religious people. Work with them when they get upset with someone who they call a hypocrite.



For

Teen Family

Season

Winter

Needed

Bible, News source (such as a daily newspaper, weekly newsmagazine, or online news)

Activity Plan

1. Say this prayer aloud to begin.

God, help us to work through our feelings when we notice hypocrisy. Amen.

2. Ask someone to read aloud Matthew 6:1-4 "Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you."

Then ask another family member to read aloud 1 John 4:20 "If anyone says, 'I love God,' and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen."

3. As a family, talk about these questions:
 - What type of hypocrite bothers you most? Why?
 - How often do you notice acts of hypocrisy?
 - Is it easier to see hypocrisy in yourself or in others? Why?
 - What can we learn from people who are hypocrites?
4. Use your Bible to read aloud Luke 19:1-10 (or see text on last page). Then discuss these questions:
 - Was Zacchaeus a hypocrite at the beginning of this story? Why or why not?
 - Why were people in the crowd calling Jesus a hypocrite for visiting Zacchaeus in his home?
 - Who is the biggest hypocrite in this Bible passage? Why?
 - Can hypocrites change? Why or why not?
5. As a family, look at a news source, such as a daily newspaper, a weekly newsmagazine, or an online news source. Look for an article about someone who or a business that is hypocritical. Talk about what makes someone or a business hypocritical.
6. Discuss how you can support each other to live lives that are consistent between what you believe, what you say, and what you do.

Jesus and Zacchaeus

Luke 19:1-10

He entered Jericho and was passing through. And there was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a chief tax collector and was rich. And he was seeking to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was small of stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was about to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today." So he hurried and came down and received him joyfully. And when they saw it, they all grumbled, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

