



1. How important to you is the way you're seen by other people? How do other people's perceptions affect how we behave? What are the negative effects?

2. Hypocrisy involves "bad acting." Why is hypocrisy so damaging to oneself and to our relationships with other people? Why do you think we do it? Discuss the fears that drive the urge to pretend to be someone we're not. How can Christian community help us to reduce the amount we "pretend?"

3. Traditionally, it is a spiritual practice that strips away physical supports for a limited time, in order to focus intensely upon the will of God. Has anyone in the group fasted? For what reason and with what results? Discuss the experience. Did the episode challenge you to fast? What would you consider fasting for? A challenge? To mourn? To plead with God? Pure devotion?

4. People don't live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord. What does this verse teach us about the way God provides for us when we fast?

5. Believers' motivation in this life should not be the obtaining of rewards as an end in itself. Our motivation should be to please God wholeheartedly in gratitude for what he has done for us through Christ. How does teaching on rewards affect behaviour? Are you motivated by talk of rewards? Discuss the pros and cons of this teaching on rewards. Where does gratitude fit in?