



## **WEEK SIX: WE KEEP IT REAL – Study Guide**

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Nobody likes a fake. Some of Jesus' harshest criticisms of the Pharisees while He was on earth concerned their hypocrisy. One of the biggest reasons that people say they don't like Christians is because we're hypocrites. We can either complain about that reputation or we can be authentic, so that we can better reach our friends and neighbors.

### **Where Am I Today?**

- 1) Think of a time that you were around someone that seemed or acted like they had it all together. What did you think of them? How did you feel about yourself afterward?

### **Into the Bible**

- 2) Having a life that has obviously been changed by Jesus is important, but so is being honest about where you are. Read **1 John 1:6-10** to read John's call. How does God use our authenticity? How does hypocrisy hinder it?

# **HOW TO CLIMB A MOUNTAIN**

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- 3) Compare John's exhortation to love one another in **1 John 4:19-21** with James' in **James 2:8-11**. What does your love for other believers reveal about your love for God and how seriously you take the Bible? Based on these passages, what does it look like to be real about your love for God?
  
  - 4) Paul was real about his weaknesses. In **2 Corinthians 12:7-10** he explained something that revealed it. What was his initial response? How did God help him change his perspective?

# How Does This Apply?

- 5) Where are some areas that you're not honest about the way God has made you, not necessarily with sins, but areas where you're weak (remember question 4)? How might that be hindering your walk with Jesus?
  
  - 6) Everyone in your Life Group does not need to know all of your secret sins, but you need at least one or two people in your life who do. Who do you have in your life that you can be real with about your sin? If you don't have that person, what can you do to find him/her?

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### Current Prayer Focus

What we're praying for together as a church:

- Neighborhood Campuses
- Building for the Statesville Campus
- 100 New Leaders at The Cove

### Digging Deeper: Going Further on Your Own

- 7) "Confession" is a word our culture likes to use. A few years ago a movie came out called *Confessions of a Shopaholic*. When celebrities get older and start to fade from the spotlight, they sometimes write a tell-all book and call it their confession. However, those pop culture forms of confession are rarely the same thing as biblical confession. The original word translated as "confess" in **1 John 1:9a** is *homologeō*. *Homologeō* is a combination of the words *homo* and *logos*, which mean "same" and "word" respectively.

The idea that John is getting across is that we need to use the same words to describe our sin as God does, or to say the same thing as God. We have to be real about our sin, what it is, the way it offends God, and our need for Jesus. When we do that, because of Jesus' completed work, He is faithful and just to forgive us and cleanse us. How is our pop culture form of confession different from biblical confession? Why is it important that the confession involves faith in Jesus?

Read **1 John 1:8-10**.