

# SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

## Luke 11:37-54

**Ice Breaker:** What's your favorite dinner spot and what's your favorite meal there?

**Ice Breaker:** When is the last time you had another church family over for a meal (outside of small group)? When is the next one scheduled? :)

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. **Read Luke 11:37-44:** What is the setting of this passage? Who is Jesus' audience? What other encounters has Jesus had with these groups so far in the book of Luke?
2. What sparks Jesus' words of judgment to this group? What do we need to be aware of about the practices of these religious groups to best understand this story?
3. Jesus summarizes his judgment against the Pharisees in verse 39-41. What is Jesus' main point? How does verse 40 support his argument? How would this have been received by the Pharisees?
4. What ways are we tempted to "wash" our outside appearance without cleansing the inside as well? How often do you pause and evaluate your heart and actions? The Bible says we are more sinful than we realize. Do you acknowledge that before others, or are you more likely to be called a hypocrite?
5. How do you react when a Christian is unjustly labeled as a "hypocrite"? How did you (or would you) react when you were called a "hypocrite" for your faith in Jesus? What would be an winsome and appropriate response? What's needed to make that response (i.e. Humility? Honesty? Grace? Gentleness? Understanding?...)
6. **Reread verses 42-44:** As a group, work to apply Jesus' three woes first to the Pharisees, and secondly, to our own lives. What applications can we make? Can you find specific ways to apply this text to your lives? How might you use this passage to communicate the Gospel to someone?
7. **Read verses 45-52:** What are the three woes in this passage? What do they mean for Jesus' audience? What might be some ways we can apply them to our lives?

**Application:** If you are able, split up into small groups (3-4 people; guys with guys, girls with girls). Spend a **few** minutes in confession over sin (specifically ones that apply to this text). Then, pray for one another asking the Lord to change our hearts.