

### Getting Started

Share some childhood memories of Halloween. What did you or your children like to dress up as? Why?

What’s the fun in pretending to be something other than what you are?

As an adult, what are some ways that we pretend to be something other than we are?

Another name for pretending to be something we’re not is *hypocrisy*. Why is it not considered “fun” when adults pretend?

### Into the Bible

Read Acts 4:32-5:11. What exactly was the sin of Ananias and Sapphira?

How do you feel about the punishment they received? Does it seem proportionate to you

What does the seriousness of the punishment tell you about the nature of the sin?

Consider James 2:10. In theory, that’s straightforward enough: every sin is equally condemned before God. In practice, though, do you find that harder to accept? Do you really think that your little sins are comparable to another’s really big sins?

Take a look at Luke 18:9-14. In the abstract, why is it so easy for us to condemn the Pharisee?

In practice, is it easier for you to act like the Pharisee or the tax collector? Why?

### Digging Deeper

Do you ever feel the need to pretend about your sin? To put a good face on your life in public?

Why is so hard to admit our sin: to ourselves and to others?

A helpful distinction is between how things look before God and how things look before humans. Before God, all sins look alike; before humans, some sins are worse than others (especially as we think about their consequences). What’s the danger in confusing those two things?