

Discovery Community Church – Small Group Discussion Guide

M.I.A. – 12/2/23

Luke 11:42-44

INTRODUCTION

- Have you ever had a leader (teacher/pastor/boss/etc.) whose rules seemed too rigid to follow? How did that affect how you felt about them, and about yourself? Was she/he a good leader?

DISCUSSION

Have a volunteer read Luke 11:42-44.

- What does Jesus say the Pharisees are doing wrong in verse 42? Is it wrong for them to tithe the way they are tithing? Why/why not?
- Why do you think the Pharisees make a point of paying tithes of every little thing? What might make it hard for others to follow this rigid interpretation of the law?
- Why do you think Jesus compares the Pharisees practice of tithing with their neglect of justice and the love of God?
- How do you respond to Christians who are not behaving the way you believe they should as followers of Jesus? What does it look like for us to be obedient to God's commands without neglecting justice and love in our relationships with others?
- In verse 43, what is the problem with the Pharisees behavior? Is it wrong for someone to enjoy getting special attention, or to be publicly acknowledged or praised? Does it matter if the reason we do good works is for acknowledgment? Why/why not?
- How often do you think we look for external motivation, like acknowledgment or praise, in order to pursue God's purpose for our lives? Is it possible to focus more on the inspiration we get from God, through scripture, prayer, our church family, etc.?
- What do you think Jesus means in verse 44? What about the Pharisees made their lives like graves? What were they missing that would have filled them with a living faith, rather than a dead one?
- What can we do to ensure our faith is alive and inspired by our love for God and his love for others? Where and to whom can we go for inspiration when faith feels hard?

APPLICATION

- What is God putting on your heart most from this week's discussion? What could you do this week to grow your faith or to encourage someone else in their faith journey?
- How can your group be praying for you?