

LIFEGROUP NOTES: MATTHEW 7:15-23

As ever, please use (or discard!) these ideas as is most suitable for your group. Don't feel you have to use everything.

Preparing for God's Word

1. Have you ever encountered someone who claimed to be telling you the word of the Lord, and yet you instinctively felt uncomfortable, as though something was wrong? What happened?

Read Mt 7:15-23

2. See v.15: Against whom did Jesus warn us? Why is it significant that Jesus' warning about false prophets comes immediately after His teaching about the narrow and broad gates?
3. What do false prophets look like on the outside (v.15)? What disguises might they wear today?
4. What are false prophets like inwardly (v.15)? Look at the warning Paul gave to the Ephesian elders in Acts 20:28-31: how would the 'savage wolves' affect the church, according to Paul? What did he call the elders to do about it?
5. What are some popular false teachings being embraced by sections of the Church today? In what ways are these destructive teachings being disguised to look safe and attractive?
6. How did our Lord say we could recognize false prophets (vv.16, 20)? In practical terms, how would you apply this test? What (inadequate) credentials or accomplishments will some people claim (v.22)?
7. See Acts 17:11: How can we keep a generous heart and avoid becoming "witch-hunters" while at the same time seeking to recognize false prophets? What role might your Lifegroup play in this discernment process?

Responding in Prayer

- Read 2Timothy 3:12-17 and use this Scripture as a framework for thanksgiving and prayer.

Eddie Larkman, May 2017