# 

Rooted Group Leaders Guide

Week of October 29, 2017

# Series: Masks Week 2 \* Self-Deception

**FOCUS:**

There's the side of you everyone else sees, and then there's the real you. Tired of wearing the masks? All of us have them and we are going to ask God to teach us to drop the masks and to bring out the real us.

**INSIGHTS: Psalm 36:2-3; Matthew 26:31-35; Psalm 139:23-24; Proverbs 15:31-32; James 1:22; John 8:31-32**

**PLAN FOR THE MEETING**

1. **Facilitate Relationship Building:** While sharing in drinks or food**,** ask your group this **Icebreaker Question**:

What was one of the worst lies you told growing up? What were the results of your deception?

1. **Prayer Time**

If you feel your group members would all feel comfortable with praying out loud, an option you could do this week would be to pray a one sentence prayer of blessing for the person sitting to your left.

Otherwise, take requests from your group and pray for those needs.

1. **Last Week’s Challenge Review:**

Does anyone have a testimony of how you were helped by last week’s message and Rooted Group discussion dealing with the mask of shame and how you have allowed God to help you remove that mask and find freedom and hope from that?

1. **Scripture & Discussion:**

**Read Psalm 36:2-3 and Matthew 26:31-35**

These passages show us two truths of the self-deceived.

* What distorted truths do you continue to believe about yourself?
  + How have these lies impacted your relationship with God and with others?
* What things are holding you back from letting go of these distorted truths and embracing the truth?
* Think about some of the people in your life who you know that have problems with self-deception? What could you do to help them see the truth?
* Why do we so often hide from ourselves and deny what we know to be true?
  + What steps can you take to stop hiding?

**Read Psalm 139:23-24; Proverbs 15:31-32; James 1:22 and John 8:31-32**

We learn in these passages the three steps necessary to live in the truth.

* Why do you think prayer is such a vital component of overcoming our sins and the lies we believe?
* Who are some of the people that you listen to most?
  + How have their words impacted your life?
* Take a moment and think about this question. You don’t need to answer this out loud.
  + What is God or a loved one trying to tell you currently?
  + How have you responded so far to what you are being told?

1. **CHALLENGES:**

**For the Group:**

As we wrap up October and begin November, begin thinking about how your group can be a blessing to your cause during the Holiday seasons of Thanksgiving and Christmas. Begin to develop a plan and put some things on a calendar in order to help you with an action plan.

Causes that I (Pastor Dave) know of:

* The Salvation Army
* A neighbor to one of the Rooted Group members.
* A family of one of our church members who is not a part of the church
* A single mom & a fringe family
* Connecting our younger generations of the church with the older generations of the church

*If you are struggling with coming up with a cause, list out 2 to 3 organizations that minister to the needs of others in the area that come to mind. Then talk about a neighbor or two from group members who could benefit from your group sharing the hope of Christ with them.*

*Pray over that list and allow God to shape within the hearts of your group members your “cause” and then don’t sit on it, act on it.*

If you have not let Pastor Dave know who / what your cause is, please let me know. Text (218-820-3156) or email [pastordave@cohmn.com](mailto:pastordave@cohmn.com)

**Personal Challenge:**

Here are some specific things you can do this week that will help you to stop hiding from yourself and start living in truth:

One way to stop deceiving yourself and believing lies is to go to the source of God’s truth and read His Word. In fact, the Bible has much to say about the dangers of self-deception and how it can negatively impact our lives. Take time this week to read the following verses that discuss self-deception and how God can deliver us into truth: 1 John 1:8-10, Revelation 3:17-20, Jeremiah 17:9 and Galatians 6:1-10.

Pastor Dave gave us, in Sunday’s message, three steps that will enable us to stop deceiving ourselves and start living in truth. Even if you’re unaware of any issues of self-deception, commit to this process by first praying and allowing God to show you the changes you need to make.

Second, ask those you trust to speak truth into your life and really listen. Finally, commit to making the changes necessary that will enable you to stop hiding from yourself.

**Personal Prayer and Reflection:**

* Confess to God those distorted truths that you believe about yourself. Allow God to show you His truth.
* Pray for those you know who are struggling with self-deception. Ask God to deliver them from the lies and into His truth.
* Ask God to show you the lies you believe about yourself that you refuse to admit. Open your heart to God and allow Him to remove the lies.
* Pray Psalm 139:23-24.
* Ask God to speak to you. Take time to listen for His answer and to guide your next steps.
* Commit to God that you will make the changes necessary to stop hiding from yourself and embrace truth.
* Take time to praise God for the work He is doing in your life.