

# Small Group Questions

## Sermon Based Small Groups – October 9, 2011

Adult Education – Woodbury Community Church  
Woodbury, Minnesota

Sermon Title: Deception in the Church  
Sermon Series: The Sermon on the Mount: Living as Citizens in the Kingdom  
of Heaven

Notes:

**Pray:** Each week, we want to take time to lift up one another's prayer concerns. True Christians pray for one another. Take some time at the beginning of your small group time to pray for each other. Be real with each other. If you are hurting, take the risk and share how you are feeling with the group. If you have something that God has blessed you with this week, share it. Give Him the glory for what He is doing in your life. Record the prayer requests in the "Notes" section on the right of this page, and make a commitment to pray for the needs of the people in your group throughout the week.

**Opening Questions:** When you think of false teachers in the church, what images come to mind? What would you say are some of the most common false teachings that the American church falls prey to today?

**Read:** Matthew 7:15

**Meditate:** Take a couple minutes to mediate upon Matthew 7:15. The verse is printed below for your convenience. Read it silently four or five times.

*15 Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves.*

**Circle:** Circle the word or phrase that spoke most to you as you read this verse.

**Share:** Share with the group what you circled. Why did you circle that you did?

**Discuss:** Why do you think that Jesus used the phrase, "ferocious wolves," to describe false prophets? How have you seen this evidenced in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century church?

What are some of the things that make a false prophet difficult to spot?

What do the following passages teach us about false teachers?

**The Sermon on the Mount  
Deception in the Church**

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Bible Passage	What the Passage Says About False Teachers
Matthew 24:10-11	
2 Timothy 4:3	
Matthew 15:9	
Galatians 1:6-9	
Colossians 2:4-8	
Ephesians 4:14	
1 Timothy 4:1, 2	

**Read:** Matthew 7:16-20

**Discuss:** How did Jesus tell us that we could discern false teachers from true teachers?

What type of fruit do you think that Jesus is talking about in Matthew 7:16-20?

What do you think Jesus meant by His words in Matthew 7:19?

**Read and Discuss:** Pastor Brian read a quote by John MacArthur in his sermon. What do you think about the following quote?

“Controversy and conflict in the church are never to be relished or engaged in without sufficient cause. But in every generation, the battle for truth has proved ultimately unavoidable, because the enemies of truth are relentless. Truth is *always* under assault. And it is actually a *sin not* to fight when vital truths are under attack.

That is true even though fighting sometimes results in conflict within the visible community of professing Christians. In fact, whenever the enemies of gospel truth succeed in infiltrating the church, faithful believers are obliged to take the battle to them even there. That is certainly the case today, as it has been since apostolic times.”<sup>1</sup>

**Pray:** As you pray this week, ask God to help you always discern truth from fiction, and to always represent Him well.

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<sup>1</sup> John MacArthur, *The Truth War* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2007), pp. xxiii-xxiv.