

Masquerade Bible Study Questions

Chapter 1.

- 1) Watch chapter 1 and pay attention to the reasons Simon gives for our desire to hide from others. What are those reasons?
- 2) Can you relate to any of the reasons Simon gives for hiding? Which, if any, do you think are justified?
- 3) Read Matthew 23:25-28. What does Jesus think about presenting a false front or essentially "hiding" our true selves?
- 4) Read Genesis 3:8-10. Why did Adam try to hide from God? Was he successful?

Chapter 2.

- 1) In chapter 2, pay attention to what Chris is trying to teach Simon, as well as what he is trying to hide from Simon. What is Chris attempting to hide from Simon? Was Chris' attempt successful? What do you think of Chris' attempt in light of what the Bible says in Luke 8:17?
- 2) Have you ever tried to hide something that was eventually exposed? If so, what did the experience teach you?
- 3) Read proverbs 22:6. In what ways do you think Chris is successful in training Simon in this scene? In what ways is he not successful?

Chapter 3.

- 1) As you watch chapter 3, pay attention to how Dale comes across, and Chris's reaction to him. Does Dale come across to you as authentic? Why or why not?

2) What do you think of Dale lying to Emma about his daughter not being home? Have you ever lied to someone in the same manner? What do you think about the situation as you look back on it?

3) Spend a few minutes reading and reflecting on what God thinks about lying. You can use the scriptures we recommend, but feel free to find additional scriptures as well (See Psalms 119:163; Proverbs 12:22; John 8:44; Acts 5:1-11) Is it ever right or even acceptable to lie or to hide the truth?

4) What does Chris seem to think about Dale's apparent wealth? What do you think of Chris's reaction in light of Psalm 49:16-20? Is it wrong to have wealth?

5) Think of a time you were envious of something that someone else had (money, position, power, etc). Put that situation into perspective by spending a few minutes reflecting on Philippians 4:11-13. What does this say about how we should live?

Chapter 4

Watch chapter 4, notice how Chris and Tom interact, as well as how Tom justifies his behavior.

1) Chris speaks truthfully about Tom's affair. Do you think Chris does this in a way that God would approve of? (Read Ephesians 4:15; Matthew 7:1-5)

2) Think about a time when you had to confront someone about a difficult subject. Were you able to confront in love and without judging? If not, what would you need to change about your delivery to do a better job next time?

3) Read Genesis 2:18-24; What is God's plan for marriage?

4) Compare Tom's reasons for ending his marriage with what the Bible says on the subject (1 Corinthians 7:10-11; Malachi 2:14-16; Matthew 19:39). Do you think Tom seems committed to holding his marriage to God's standards? Why or why not?

Chapter 5

Pay attention in chapter 5 to what each man is thinking versus what he expresses out loud.

- 1) Read Galatians 6:2. Do you think these men are truly carrying each other's' burdens? Why or why not? What, if anything, do you think is preventing them from doing that?
- 2) Read Proverbs 27:17. Do you think these men are "sharpening" each other? How do you think they could do a better job at that?
- 3) Revisit Luke 8:17. What do you think of Simon playing the answering machine message in light of that verse?

Chapter 6

Watch chapter 6, and focus on what Chris and Michelle want from each other.

- 1) What are Michelle's chief complaints about Chris? Which of her complaints do you agree with, and which do you disagree with? Why? Answer the same questions on Chris's chief complaints about Michelle.
- 2) Think of a time you had a heated argument with your spouse or someone else close to you. Do you see any similarities you demonstrated to how Chris or Michelle handled their argument?
- 3) Read Ephesians 5:25-33. What does the Bible say about a husband's duties to his wife and family? In what ways do you think Chris fulfills his duties? Are there any areas where he falls short?
- 4) Read Ephesians 5:22-24 and Colossians 3:18. Do you think Michelle is submitting to Chris in the way the Bible commands? Why or why not?

Chapter 7

In chapter 7 focus on the realization that comes to Chris, and how it changes his perspective.

1) What does Chris come to realize about himself in this chapter? What effect do these realizations have on him? Think about the realizations while returning to Luke 8:17.

2) Read Ephesians 6:4 and Colossians 3:21. Before this chapter, do you think Chris was in danger of exasperating or embittering his son? Why or why not? Does anything about this chapter make you suspect that Chris's attitude toward Simon will change in the future?

3) Have you ever come to a realization about something that significantly changed your perspective? What, if anything, changed in your life as a result?

4) Spend some time thinking about Chris's realizations from this chapter in light of Psalm 139:23-24.

Chapter 8

In chapter 8, be aware of the changes in attitudes and perspectives from the previous chapters.

1) In what areas has Chris's attitude changed from previous chapters? What do you think are the main causes for the changes?

2) How has Dale's attitude toward Emma changed from earlier in the movie? What do you think of that change in light of Matthew 25:34-40? Are there any other ways that Dale is more open than he was previously?

3) Return to Luke 8:17 one last time. Spend some time meditating on everything that came to light during the course of this movie. Overall do you think that bringing these things into the open made things better?

4) Reflect on Simon's final speech. How has increased openness improved his life?

5) Are there any areas of your life where you need to be more open? Read Psalm 139:23-24 again, and ask God to show you any areas where you need to be more open. List any areas in your life where you would like to make a change after going through this movie and Bible study.