

Looking for helpful  
resources?

The Bible  
Project



Free Commentary



### Read

In your group, read the passage out loud, with each person reading a verse.

### Recall

**Sermon Big Idea:** The gospel of Jesus not only unmask our hypocrisy, it also restores us through the grace of Jesus.

### Head: Grasping the Text

*Goal: To grasp the theological concepts and historical context of the text.*

1. **The "Table Test":** In the ancient world, sharing a meal was a sacred act of solidarity (read Ex. 24:9-11; Psalm 23:5; Gen. 14:18). How did Peter's decision to "withdraw and separate himself" (v. 12) communicate a different "gospel" than the one he preached (Acts 2 is an example of his message)?
2. **The Root of Peter's Relapse:** Read **Acts 10:9–16**. Peter had already received a direct revelation from God that "unclean" things were now clean. Why do you think he "slipped out of step" (v. 14) despite having such a powerful spiritual track record and a previous change of thinking about his new ethics the gospel offers?
3. **Right Doctrine and Right Practice:** What does this passage teach about the relationship between right belief corresponding with right behavior (Read 1 Timothy 4:16; James 1:22)
4. **Danger of Hypocrisy:** What Paul confronts Peter over, read how Jesus had a disdain for hypocrisy in Matt. 23:27-28; Matt. 15:7-9; Matt. 7:3-5. According to Jesus, why is religious hypocrisy a sin?

## Heart: Grasping the Internal Transformation

*Goal: To examine how the Gospel reshapes our identity, affections, and motivations.*

5. **The Fear Factor:** Paul explicitly states Peter acted because he "feared those from the circumcision party." What are the groups or people in your life whose disapproval scares you into changing your behavior? Describe a past instance when you gave in to peer pressure (Read Prov 29:25)
6. **The Contagion:** Verse 13 says even Barnabas was "carried away." In your life, was there ever a time when it was easier to just "go with the flow," and you were persuaded by others' ways or beliefs? Why can a person's actions cause others to stumble? What is one area where, potentially, your actions can negatively influence others, maybe even causing them to stumble?
7. **The Honor/Shame Game:** Paul confronted Peter "to his face" in front of everyone. Have you ever been confronted? How did it feel? Did you realize you were wrong? Can you look back on that event and realize that it was necessary and helpful, or perhaps even grateful for that person speaking a hard truth into your life?

## Hands: Grasping Your Next Step

*Goal: To move from hearing the Word to living it out. How can I take a step of action in the next week to walk more faithfully as a disciple?*

8. **The Self Audit of the Step:** Think about how you've been staying in step with the gospel over this last month. Where is one area of your life you feel you need to get back in step and be re-aligned with the drum beat of the gospel?
9. **Identify the "Helper":** Peter needed Paul to "straighten" his walk. Who is "God's Helper" in your life that has the permission to call out your hypocrisy or error? If you don't have one, what is one step you can take to find that accountability to invite others to help you walk worthy (Eph 4:1-3; Col. 1:10)?
10. **The Beauty of the Broken Vessel:** Consider the troubled track record of Peter, yet God still restores him and uses him as a broken vessel to write 1 and 2 Peter. What does this teach us about God's grace, and how does it encourage you this week to stay more in step with the gospel of grace?