

Poser

Fake It to Make It // Week 1 // SWITCHgroup Questions

Night 1 teaching

“Fake it till you make it”

What is your spiritual condition?

7th grade basketball

Coach said: boys; basketball is a lot like life. I'm thinking if basketball is like life then I might need to invest in some bigger shorts! He went on to say, sometime things are good and sometimes they are bad... fair enough... and then he said something that stuck with me for years (both subcont.)... He said there will be times in life and in the game of basketball that to get through it and win you have to fake it till you make it.

My coach called it faking, yet for this entire week we are going to call it what it really is. That being a poser, a poser defined is- **someone who pretends to be something they are not. Anyone who does not follow his/her own ideas of what he/she likes.**

While there are some who may have never heard the saying I will promise you that many of us live our lives that way without even knowing it. Recently I sat down with students who talked openly and honestly about the pressure they felt to fake it. Here is what they had to say:

Video with Students

This week will be extremely painful for many. It is a very, very humbling feeling to look directly at the person in the mirror and see what you have become. What you claiming to be to fit in and be accepted. What is interesting to me is that some of us have posed for so long we don't even know we are doing it. It has literally taken over every area of your life.

People we know- How many have friends we try to be something different depending on who they are around (Hands).

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School- is the posing playing ground.

Online- Anyone met someone online only to find out they were something different.

I know when we look at it that way it is really funny, some would even say it isn't a big deal, everyone poses, but I will argue it is. Because the more we pose and fake who we are the further we get away from being who God has called us to be. There are hundreds of students listening to my voice right now and you know what I am talking about. You have tried to fake it for so long you are just tired of playing the game, while there are others that just want to know who they really are so they can start living it out.

Not only do we love to compare, we love to judge. The reason we compare and judge our lives to others is because it takes the focus off of our lives.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that they man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."

Matthew as many of you know is the first book in the New Testament or the new covenant or agreement that God makes with His people. CONTEXT OF CHAPTER 7

Matthew 7:1-5 "Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. "Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye."

It is really easy to see what is wrong with everyone else and their problems, but it is very challenging to come clean to ourselves.

What Jesus is talking about is self-reflection. Not only do we love to compare, we love to judge. The reason we compare and judge our lives to others is because it takes the focus off of our lives.

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Everyone can spot a poser, right? Someone pretending to be something they're not. But what about the poser in the mirror? Are we even aware of how often we betray who we really are? This series will call you out and invite you to drop the pose and become the authentic, real person God created you to be.

Walk Away Point: Be honest about who YOU really are.

Leaders: Choose questions from these suggestions to help your group process, personalize, and take action on this week's message. Don't feel like you need to do them all and try not to read from the sheet.

Icebreakers:

1. What sport would make you look like a total poser if you tried to play it?
2. Share a time when you tried to be someone you're not.

What do I think?

1. Share a time when you felt like you had to "fake it till you make it?"
2. What was your goal in trying to be someone you weren't?
3. Which person in the video did you relate to the best? Why?
4. What were the results when someone found out you were being fake?

What does God say?

1. Read Matthew 7:1-5 (NLT). Why is it easier to look at everyone else's faults and so much harder to look at who we are and who we have become?
"Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. For you will be treated as you treat others. The standard you use in judging is the standard by which you will be judged. And why worry about a speck in your friend's eye when you have a log in your own? How can you think of saying to your friend, 'Let me help you get rid of that speck in your eye,' when you can't see past the log in your own eye? Hypocrite! First get rid of the log in your own eye; then you will see well enough to deal with the speck in your friend's eye."
2. When you were watching the video, was it easier to think about other posers you know than yourself?
3. What "specks" do you tend to see in other people?
4. What "planks" keep showing up in your own life?

What steps will I take?

1. What are some areas in your life where you have been posing? What do you need to do to get honest with yourself this week?

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2. Think of someone you've been acting fake around? What would it take to get you to come clean and introduce the real you to them?

Group Challenge:

Let's make this week focused on getting the planks out of our own eyes before we try to get the specks out of everyone else's eyes. Let's memorize as much of Matthew 7:1-5 as possible this week and be ready to share it with our group. By the way, if some decide not to do it, let's not judge. 😊 However, we do want to make this a real challenge so let's hold each other to it and see what we can do as a group.

Encourage your students to download and read Andy Tilly's book Poser. It's free to them during this month at <http://poser.andytilly.com>.