**Our dirty little secret**

**Leader’s Notes**

**HOOK**

**1. What’s the funniest thing that you’ve ever seen at church?**

**2. What hurt have you experienced from a local church?**

**BOOK/LOOK**

**Read Matthew 13:24-30.**

**3. What do you think was the main point of this parable?**

**4. Now read Matthew 13:36-43. How does Jesus’ explanation help you understand the parable?**

**5. What are two reasons we should expect sin in the church? (**Because the devil plants counterfeit believers into Christian communities; because believers are sinners too.)

**6. According to Jesus’ parable, should we focus our energy on trying to weed out the fake Christians?** (No, otherwise, we may uproot genuine believers. God lets us grow together until the end of the age.)

**7. Does your local church or home group have to be perfect in order to love it?** (No!)

**8. How does Hebrews 3:12-13 suggest a preventative remedy for sin?** (We can encourage each other so that sin’s deceitfulness doesn’t harden others and us).

**9. What advice does Galatian 6:1 have for any of us as we try to restore sinners in our church?** (Be gentle, be sympathetic, and be careful.)

**10. How does 1 John 1:9 and Hebrews 4:15,16 help us to deal with our dirty laundry?** (If we confess our sin, God cleanses us and forgives us.)

**TOOK**

**11. What burden are you carrying that’s too hard to carry on your own?**

**12. What goals are you pursuing that you need encouragement to achieve?**

**13. Read James 5:19-20. Who would you like this group to pray for to return to the fellowship of Christ? Is there any other practical way this group could help facilitate that return?**