

VOICES

PART 2: KEEPING UP APPEARANCES

INTRODUCTION

We're tempted to think *things* or *social status* will make us happy. We construct lives that look amazing on the outside, even though we're rotting on the inside. But keeping up appearances is difficult. It leaves us longing for something more. It leaves us searching for meaning in life.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Growing up, were you a rule-follower or a rule-breaker? How has that influenced who you are today?
2. What are some reasons people feel pressure to keep up appearances? What are some of the costs when people present a false version of themselves to the world?
3. Talk about a time when you felt pressure to keep up appearances. What did it do to you? What happened?
4. As you listened to Scott talk about addressing the problem of the lack of clean water in communities in Africa, what was your response? Do you believe it's a solvable problem? Did it sound overwhelming?
5. During the message, Scott said, "Forty-two percent of Americans distrust charity." Are you among that group? If so, what concerns do you have about how charities use the resources their given? How can you address those concerns in order to find charities you trust?
6. Is there a need in the world you feel a burden to address? If so, what can you do to take your first step toward addressing it? How can this group support you?

MOVING FORWARD

There's no need to keep up appearances. There's no value in it. You will find value and meaning when you shift your focus toward serving others in their greatest needs—the way Jesus served you in your greatest need.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

"Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them."

John 13:14–17