

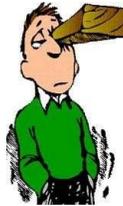


### November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017 Discussion Guide

#### Questions Jesus asked:

**“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?”**

**Matthew 7:3-4**



#### **Introduction**

*This quote is found in what is commonly known as the “Sermon on the Mount” (Matthew 5-7). Jesus spoke to a large crowd that day concerning how to live life by God’s standard. This specific question followed the statement, “Do not judge.” Judging others has been an issue since the beginning of human existence. It is obviously still an issue today. Jesus’ instruction regarding judging others is very simply put: Don’t!*

*We generally don’t characterize Jesus as a funny guy, but the crowd had to have laughed when he suggested this funny imagery. Jesus doesn’t say that we shouldn’t hold each other accountable from time to time, but there are some personal things to attend to before we would presume to do that. Why is it easier to see the other guy’s issues than it is for me to see my own issues?*

#### **Discussion/Questions**

Read Matthew 7:1-5 & Luke 6:37-45. Discuss the dangers and challenges of judging others in light of what Jesus said in these verses. Why shouldn’t a person judge? Why do you think Jesus describe this person as a hypocrite? What comes to mind when you hear that word hypocrite? What is the difference between being a judgmental person and being a discerning person?

Share a time when you feel you were unfairly judged by someone or a time when you unfairly judged someone or both. How did you react to the situation and how did that experience affect you?



A couple of examples to consider...

1. Read 2 Samuel 12:1-13. Discuss how you think this experience of King David (a man after God's own heart) relates to what Jesus said in Matthew 7:1-5. Why do you think David was so quick to react to this injustice? How did he respond after Nathan confronted him?
2. Read John 8:1-11. Discuss how Jesus responded to this situation when he was "set up" to judge someone who was caught in the middle of breaking the law. Describe the atmosphere of the scene and the feelings of the characters involved. What do you think Jesus was feeling towards the accusers and the accused? Would you rather be shown justice or mercy?

Read and discuss what Paul wrote about judging others in Galatians 6:1-10.

Read and discuss what Jesus' brother, James, wrote about judging others in James 4:11-12.

Read Matthew 7:12. Discuss the standard Jesus said is the very best way to treat one another.

### **Moving Forward**

- Jesus gave his followers a new command that would set the standard for his kingdom.... *"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."* John 13:34-35
- Read these "One Another" verses in the Bible and consider the benefits of putting them into practice! Romans 12:10,16; 14:13; 15:7,14; Galatians 5:13; 6:2; Ephesians 4:2,32; 5:21; Colossians 3:13,16; 1 Thessalonians 4:18; 5:11; Hebrews 10:24,25; James 5:16; 1 Peter 3:8, 4:10; 1 John 4:7-12)