

# HOW TREAT PEOPLE



## Week Two: Judge Not – Study Guide

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It's fun to judge other people; that's why we do it so much. If we point out how weak and terrible we think other people are, it makes us feel better. We don't like putting it that bluntly, but it's why we do it. How can we move past our judgmental tendencies and care for others?

### Where Am I Today?

- 1) We're all hypocrites. We all love to point out problems that other people have, and many of them are the same problems we have. Where are you most hypocritical?

### Into the Bible

- 2) **Luke 6:37-38** is one of the most popular passages in the Bible. Even people who are unfamiliar with the Bible know they can say "judge not" if a conversation gets too personal. Jesus is definitely teaching something about judgment here, but He's not saying to ignore sin. How can we know He's not saying that? What is His gist?

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- 3) Does it surprise you that Jesus not only commands us to not to judge and not to condemn, but that He follows it up with specific consequences if we don't obey? In fact, He goes further and gives us positive actions: forgive and give. Why would God want us to be full of grace and forgive others? Why is being open-handed with our attitudes and our "stuff" an antidote for judging others?
  
- 4) Jesus then went on to tell a couple of parables in **Luke 6:39-42**. Read that passage and look carefully at how Jesus is communicating. Why is he using a rhetorical question and hyperbole (exaggeration) to make His point?
  
- 5) Paul picked up on a very similar theme in his letters. Like Jesus, Paul never excused sin, but he also understood that it was a common denominator for everyone. We all play on a level playing field when it comes to a sin nature. Read **Galatians 6:1-5** to see his clear instruction on dealing with others' sin. Briefly describe how we are to respond to other Christians whom we find in sin (especially habitual sin) according to this passage.

### How Does This Apply?

- 6) What is your knee-jerk reaction when you see another Christian (or maybe even a nonbeliever) caught in sin? Is it to shake your head and judge them? Do you sympathize with them for the temptation? Do you immediately check to make sure that you don't do that as well? Or do you respond in your own unique way?

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- 7) If we're supposed to take the log out of our own eye before approaching our brother about his splinter, what does that say about our own need for repentance? What are some daily habits you can institute in order to avoid walking around with a log in your eye?
  
- 8) Because of this teaching, and other similar ones in the Bible, there is a tendency to over correct. We're so worried about being a hypocrite that we don't point out anyone's sin, which was not Jesus' point. Jesus didn't say not to ever point out sin. In fact, Jesus pointed out people's sin; He said to check yourself first. How can you be aware of others' sin, so that you don't excuse it, but still be aware of your own so that you approach people with compassion?

### Prayer Focus

Please remember our mission team in South Africa, who are spreading God's love to His people. Let us also pray for the people of Ukraine.

### Continue Learning on Your Own

- 9) In this section of scripture, especially Luke 6:39-42, we see a quality of Jesus that many of us never thought existed—a sense of humor. Jesus was not a solemn monastic man who walked around without ever showing emotion. He occasionally got angry, cried, told stories, and even sometimes told jokes to make a point. Talking about people walking around with planks in their eyes was meant as a joke.

Jesus' teaching wasn't the first instance of humor in the Bible. Old Testament prophets had a long history of using humor, sometimes scathing humor, to make a strong point. As a prophet (among other roles) Jesus continued this tradition. So as it turns out, there's nothing inherently unholy about humor or well-used sarcasm. How did Jesus use humor without abusing it? How do we have a tendency to abuse it?



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Read: **1 Kings 18:25-27; Proverbs 19:24, 21:9, and 27:5-6; Isaiah 3:16-24 and 44:13-20; Amos 4:1 and 6:4-6.**