

LIFEGROUP NOTES: MATTHEW 7:1-12

As ever, please use (or discard!) these ideas as is most suitable for your group. Don't feel you have to use everything.

Preparing for God's Word

1. When did you last catch yourself being judgemental? What went on in your head – and your heart – at the time?

Read Mt 7:1-12

2. See vv.1-2. Do you think Jesus really means that we should never pass any type of judgment on anyone? Why, or why not? If not, what does He mean?
3. See vv.3-5. What specks in other people's eyes do you tend to judge the most? Why? Where are you most guilty of double-standards?
4. How would your life be different if you were more prone to look for the plank in your own eye instead of evaluating others? What role might we play in helping one another to identify and overcome specific sins in our lives? What holds us back?
5. In what way does Matthew 7:6 instruct us to judge? What does putting this verse into practice actually look like? Compare Mt 10:14-15; Acts 13:45-46, 50-51.
6. See vv.7-11. In contrast to our sometimes ungenerous spirit, how does Jesus portray our heavenly Father? Do you believe that God is at least as generous as a human parent? Why, or why not? How is your conviction about God's generosity reflected in your prayer life?
7. How do you think verse 12 relates to verses 7-11? In what particular relationship do I struggle to live out this kingdom principle? What tangible step of obedience can I take this week to love that person as I would love myself?

Responding in Prayer

- Thank God for His grace toward us. Pray to view people who sin with a spirit of grace and concern rather than with a spirit of condemnation.

Eddie Larkman, May 2017