

Questions Jesus Asked

Week One - Why do you Judge?

BOTTOM LINE

We believe that Jesus challenged our view of what, who, and why we Judge. More often than we may like to admit we miss the focus of who Jesus called us to Judge and who He didn't. **Jesus is full of TRUTH and GRACE. The church is at its best when it embraces both and refuses to let go of either.**

GOAL OF THE GROUP

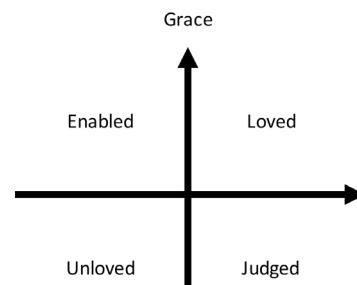
One of things we struggle with as Christians is loving others with both Truth and Grace. We plan on looking at the word "judge" and redefining its meaning for Christ followers. We also want to learn how to be more Christ like by treating everyone with Truth and Grace.

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 7:1-5; John 1:14, 16-17; 1 Corinthians 5:12

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Share: Have you ever "judged a book by its cover" and were pleasantly surprised (or completely wrong) once you got to know this person?
2. Read Matthew 7:1-5.
 - a. Why do Christians have such a bad reputation for judging when Jesus specifically told us not to? In what situations do you struggle with judging others?
 - b. What does the word judge mean to you? Who was Jesus talking to when He said, "Don't Judge?" If we aren't supposed to judge those outside the church, how should we interact with them?
 - c. What does Jesus mean when he says to remove the plank from our own eye? What "plank" is Jesus asking you to remove from your "eye" so you can help your brother?
3. Draw: Take out a piece of paper, a white board, or a napkin and draw the attached Grace/Truth Matrix. This matrix can help us understand how people feel when we communicate with them. Where do you fall on the Grace/Truth Matrix?
4. Read John 4:4-26 with the Grace and Truth Matrix in mind
 - a. In what parts of the passage do you see Jesus show the woman Grace? In what parts does He show her Truth? Would you have shown the woman more Truth or Grace?
 - b. Continuing reading verses 27-42: How does Jesus' use of both Truth and Grace impact the woman's perspective on her situation? How does she react? How do others react?
 - c. How do you relate to the woman at the well? When have you been treated with Grace and Truth? When have you treated other people with Grace and Truth?
5. Pray as a group: Ask God to help you see others with more Truth and Grace.



If you want to know what Jesus meant when he said: "Love one another," look at how He loved.



TRY THIS

If you imagine everyone is loved by God and needs His grace, how would you interact with people differently? Imagine someone you are naturally frustrated with, maybe you even judge them at work or in your family. How would you respond if you embraced this verse the next time they frustrated you? "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast." Ephesians 2:8-9 Try to apply it this week!

Questions Jesus Asked

Week Two - Where Are The Other Nine?

BOTTOM LINE

We can all forget to be grateful at times. We can get caught up in our day to day and miss appreciating all that we have. We need a reminder that everything we have is a gift from God and that we should show our gratitude to God for these gifts.

GOAL OF THE GROUP

We are going to look at a story of how a leper, healed by Jesus, couldn't contain his appreciation for the gift he was given. This gift was given to nine other lepers, as well, but only the one, the Samaritan, came back and praised Jesus. How could such a precious, life-changing gift be so readily dismissed by the rest of the group? Have we ever done the same?

SCRIPTURE

Philippians 4:6-7, James 1:17 and Luke 17:11-18

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Share: Tell a story of something you were grateful for. It could be a gift you received, a kind word at a needed moment or a friendship that helped you through a difficult season.
2. Read: Philippians 4:6-7
 - a. Why does Paul tell us that when we are coming to God that we should have thankful hearts? How does having a thankful heart impact how we prayer and what we pray about?
 - b. How can being grateful for the prayers God already answered in the past remind us that He is in control in our future?
3. Read: James 1:17
 - a. James says, "Every good and perfect gift is from above." What are the gifts that James is talking about? Do you believe that God provides everything you have to you? Even if you are the one working hard to achieve?
 - b. When you are in the midst of struggle, to what or where do you turn for relief? Does this verse invoke a sense of looking up for a gift from God rather than continuing to strive through the struggle?
4. Read: Luke 17:11-18—The Lepers asked for pity, and Jesus sent them on their way. They were cleansed, but only one of them returned to thank him.
 - a. Why did only one leper return to Jesus to thank him? Was their gift any less miraculous?
 - b. Have you ever called out to God and received an answer only He could provide? Did you realize at the time that God's answer was to your prayer? Was the answer different than what you had asked for or expected?
 - c. Did you return to God and thank him for your gift? Was it as "loud" and intense as when you asked for help?
5. Pray as a group: Have everyone share one thing they are grateful for and thank God for those things together.

When you are not feeling grateful remember:

1. Thank God for His Mercy!
2. Thank God it's never too late!
3. Thank God Loudly and Publicly!



TRY THIS

- a. If you are currently in a Small Group, ask this question to everyone—What is one thing that everyone in this group can pray for? Identify 3 things you are grateful for and thank God for them this week.
- b. If you are reading this discussion guide more like a devotion and not in a small group setting—take out a journal and write down something you are struggling with and you want to give to God. Pray about it and ask God to take the burden from you. Now identify three things you are grateful for and write them down. Thank God for these gifts and ask Him to remind you of these things when your struggle is bringing you down, so you can be more like the one who came back to praise Jesus.

Questions Jesus Asked

Week Three - Why do you worry?

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus commands us to stop worrying in Matthew 6:25. Jesus says the reason we worry is because we have more faith in worrying than we do in God. We need to believe that if Jesus commands us to stop worrying then God has provided a way of stopping. There is a way to face uncertainty tomorrow without worrying about it today.

GOAL OF THE GROUP

We are going to look at what Jesus thinks about worry and how He tells us to address it. If we woke up each day confident that God will take care of us, we would stop worrying, not because our circumstances have changed but because our faith has changed.

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 6:24-30

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Share: What is something that you find yourself worrying about often?
2. Read Matthew 6:24-30:
 - a. In verse 24 Jesus talks about how we can only be devoted to God or _____.
 - b. We all find ourselves being tempted by a variety of things in life. What is something that you are tempted to place on a pedestal, sometimes even more than God?
3. Why do you think Jesus begins a discussion about worry with money? What have you noticed about the relationship between money and worry?
4. In Matthew 6:26, It says that God will take care of the birds, which we are more valuable than, but we struggle to believe that, why? We all know this but why is it difficult to apply?
5. Worry can be described as a faith issue. Our faith can be attached to things, stuff, people or situations and if they don't pan out we find ourselves stuck in a place of worry.
 - a. When was a time you surrendered a worry to God and He helped in the midst of it? What happened and how did your faith grow in that situation?
 - b. How have you learned to trust God more since that moment?
 - c. If you don't have a story like this, what holds you back from trusting God in the midst of your worry?
6. Discuss this quote: *Charles Spurgeon quote: "Anxiety does not empty tomorrow of its sorrows, but only empties today of its strength."*
 - a. How have you seen this happen?
 - b. How can you be encouraged to find your strength in God over the worries you are carrying with you right now?
7. Pray as a group: During prayer ask God to reveal to you a worry you have been clinging to, ask God to take that worry away, and ask God to provide you with reminders that He can be trusted.

I will say of the LORD, "He is my
refuge and my fortress, my God,
in whom I trust."
Psalm 91:2



TRY THIS

The things we worry about the most are the things we are most devoted to. Worry is so emotional that we tend to deal with it emotionally. What if you shifted your devotion? What would happen to your worry? Write down something you worry about in a prayer journal. Intentionally pray about giving God this worry every day for a week. Listen for God's response. What does God reveal to you?