

TIED UP IN NOTES

WEEK 2 | LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS - JUDGE NOT

CONNECT

- Have you ever been accused of something you didn't do? Maybe a sibling falsely blamed you for something they did when you were younger? Maybe a co-worker insinuated you were the cause of a project failing when in fact it was them? Have fun discussing this!

CONSIDER

- What encouraged or challenged you from the sermon and/or daily devotions this week?

CHRIST

- The portion of scripture discussed in the sermon this week (Matthew 7) is from Jesus' famous Sermon on the Mount. Prior to this point of His sermon, Jesus primarily dealt with our internal spiritual behaviors (giving, prayer, fasting, etc.). However, here Jesus turns to matters pertaining to how we treat others. **Do you find it easier to deal with internal matters or matters pertaining to your relationship with others? Either way, explain your answer?**

- You may have heard of "The Golden Rule." It is the principle of treating others as you would want to be treated. Scholarly people call it the "ethic of reciprocity." It is called The Golden Rule because it can be found in most religions and cultures, not just Christianity. Aspects of this can be found in several often quoted scriptures in the Bible:

- (Luke 6:31) Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.
- (Galatians 5:14) Love your neighbor as yourself.

A similar rule or ethic is found here in our text in Matthew:

- (Matthew 7:1-2) Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

Does the thought of being judged in the same way you judge others a comforting thought for you or one that gives you pause?

- Matthew 7:3 gives a very graphic, and some would say even comical, image of what judging others looks like. It says, "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?" The word that comes to mind is "hypocrisy." This word is one that many non-believers cite as a reason they could never become a Christian; because they believe many Christians are hypocrites. **How does that make you feel? What can we do as Christians to change that perception?**

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- As we answered these questions about judgement and judging others, you may have thought “I may not be perfect, but at least I don’t judge others.” However, one commentary on Matthew 7 lists several ways we might be judging others without really knowing that we are. These include:
 - When we think the worst of others
 - When we only speak to others of their faults
 - When we identify people only by their worst moments
 - When we criticize others for how they handled a situation without considering ourselves in those same circumstances

Does this list make you reconsider whether or not you’ve been judgemental of others? Are there other situations you could add to this list that might be considered judgemental?

CALLING

- One way we can protect ourselves against judging others is to ask God to guard our hearts and reveal to us when we are being judgemental or thinking incorrectly about others. They say you can develop a habit in 30 days. For the next month, include this in your prayers by asking God to help you in these areas.
- **Daily Devotions:** Spend some time each day with Northside devotions. Text JOINGOD to 81411 or use the Study tab in Northside’s App for Daily Devotions.
- **Memorize:** *“Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Give, and it will be given to you...for the measure you use, it will be measured to you..” - Luke 6:37-38*
- **Further Study:** Read *UnChristian: What a New Generation Really Thinks about Christianity...And Why it Matters* by David Kinnaman and Gabe Lyons. Filled with tons of research about what non-believers feel about Christians, along with a healthy conversation about Christian hypocrisy and judgement, it will change the way you look at those far from the faith.