

# Grace Group Discussion Guide

For the week of July 21 - 27, 2019

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## Main Thought and Passages:

Many people have used Jesus' words, "do not judge," out of proper context. Taken at face value, Jesus' statement seems to exclude people from declaring what's right and what's wrong towards one another. However, "do not judge," doesn't mean you can't share the truth of God's word, but explains the heart and motivation behind doing so. God desires for us to exercise biblical wisdom in speaking truth to one another while avoiding hypocrisy. The goal for the believer in these situations should always be to bring others closer to Him (redemption and reconciliation). To judge correctly, we must:

- Test our motives: Always seek to bring help and healing, not criticism and condemnation.
- Look into the mirror: Examine ourselves for any hypocrisy and sin in that specific area.
- Be clear and firm about what's right: It's important to differentiate how we feel (opinion/subjective) from what He says (God's word/objective).
- Be careful and caring: Communicate the truth (God's word) in love.

*"Do not judge, or you too will be judged. <sup>2</sup>For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. <sup>3</sup>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? <sup>4</sup>How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? <sup>5</sup>You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye." (Matthew 7:1-5 NIV)*

*"Stop judging by mere appearances, but instead judge correctly." (John 7:24 NIV)*

*"Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted. Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." (Galatians 6:1-2 NIV)*

## Reflection:

- From the main thought and passages above, what's something that caught your attention?
- Describe a time when you were incorrectly judged by someone or you incorrectly judged someone.

## Application:

- Do you struggle more with receiving correction or giving correction?
- Discuss why it is important to be able to bring judgment (Godly correction) to one another.

## Prayer:

- Pray for one another to be committed to speak the truth in love.
- Pray for someone far from God who you can help to reconcile with God.