

2022

JUDGE NOT

Week 1 Group Guide

Me before we



Overview

What's the best way to motivate change? In a world full of fights, how do we know which ones are holy and which ones are not? How do we balance the grace of God with the truth of his instructions? In this critical and timely series, we will investigate together these famous words of Jesus: "Judge not." Before we make commentary on culture, it is our holy responsibility to take inventory of ourselves. Me before we. Through practical and

accountable teaching, we will learn as a community what it means to suspend judgement and extend grace.

Week One

It's far easier to assign blame than it is to accept it. We need look no further than Adam and his first mistake for proof. Taking ownership for the things we have done wrong, the places we've missed the mark, can be an uncomfortable business. Still, it's a skill we must possess. A lack of ownership can quickly lead to a life of judgment. And, this is in direct opposition to the teachings and life of Jesus. This week we will start the conversation about judgment by taking a long look at ourselves.

Scripture: Genesis 3:11-12, Genesis 3:21, 1 Peter 4:8-10, John 1:17, Numbers 14:18

Key Take Aways & Action Items:

- The degree to which we have acknowledged our brokenness will affect the degree to which we judge others.
- When something is our fault, most of us often deflect or cover up.
- **deflection** = misplaced blame
- **cover** is camouflage for mistakes.
- Relationships make room for right without using might.
- The Bible tells us that God has planted eternity in our hearts, a longing for him and for what comes next (Ecclesiastes 3:11). The enemy has also, since that first encounter with Adam and Eve, planted rebellion in our hearts. We ate. We ingested rebellion. It became a part of us all.

Group Guide Questions:

1. What do you do when you know, without a doubt, that something is all your fault?
2. Do you typically deflect or cover up?

- a. deflect= blame experiences/others
 - b. Cover up= point the focus to something less important or more traumatic
- 3. We should take full ownership of our actions.
 - a. What is your definition of full ownership?
 - b. What do you expect of others when they are taking ownership?
- 4. Relationships make room for “right without using might”.
 - a. Who in your life do you trust to tell you the “hard truths?”
- 5. When we begin to work on our own lives and struggles, we have less time to judge others in their lives.
 - a. Honestly, what is your ratio of judging others vs judging yourself?
 - b. Ratio of telling others what to work on vs working on yourself?
- 6. Read Romans 5.

The enemy wants us to think arrogantly and in isolation.

 - a. Do you think “oh i don’t have a judgment problem? I don’t judge anyone?”- truth is, that’s arrogance. In some way, we’ve judged or continued to judge others- whether it be people in politics, celebrities, co-workers, family..etc
 - b. Or- do you think “I am the only one who judges people in this way, why do i think this way?” this is the shame/isolation that tells you it’s not normal to judge and call others out without dealing with our own stuff.
- 7. Truth is, judgment and pointing fingers goes back to the Garden. It’s in all of us, regardless if we want to admit it or not. We judge Adam & Even for eating of the fruit, even though if we were told NOT to do something for so long, eventually the thought of it would force us into the action of “eating the apple”
 - a. When looking through the lens of judgment/pointing fingers/not taking ownership- what do you notice about Genesis 3:11-12?
 - i. (The man blames God & the women for HIS actions simultaneously)
- 8. Like Adam, we often cast blame before accepting our part in the fallout:
 - a. How much of your life do you need to go back and take full ownership of?
 - b. How often do you blame _____? (family, partner, friends,etc)
 - c. How often do you God?
- 9. Read Genesis 3:21. Notice Adam & Eve chose to COVER instead of taking ownership, but God pursued them and “Clothed them” and prepared them for the consequences. He was not enabling their bad decisions, but he met them with Grace & Truth.
 - a. What are you “covering” that God wants to use to help clothe others?
- 10. Read 1 Peter 4:8-10 & John 1:17

- a. His grace was a “gift” to us. How can you use your past failures as a gift to others to prepare them for the consequences and accountability that come with disobedience?
- b. Read Numbers 14:18
Instead of seeming judgemental when holding someone accountable, what can we do to model the longsuffering of God?

Resources & Scripture:

- Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” The man said, **“The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.”** Genesis 3:11-12 (ESV)
- And the Lord God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them. Genesis 3:21 (ESV)
- Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace, 1 Peter 4:8-10 (ESV)
- grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. John 1:17 (ESV)
- “The Lord is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, forgiving iniquity and transgression,” Numbers 14:18 (ESV)
- It is interesting to compare a legalistic church with a good AA group. In this kind of church, it is culturally unacceptable to have problems; that is called being sinful. In the AA group it is culturally unacceptable to be perfect; that is called denial. In the former setting, people look better but get worse, and in the latter, they look worse but get better. Certainly there are good churches and poor AA groups, but because of a lack of grace and truth in some churches, Christians have had to go elsewhere to find healing. (Henry Cloud - Changes that Heal)
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