

## Getting into Our Lives .....Group time - 20 minutes

1. How have you been hurt by the condemning judgmental actions of others?
2. Where has being judgmental crept into your daily patterns? Where do you hold others to a higher standard than yourself or than the Bible requires?
3. Some have said that what irritates us about others can teach us about ourselves. What is something this concept helps bring into focus about yourself so you can repent and seek God's help to fix it?

## Getting Out the Gospel .....Group time - 5 minutes

Identify who you would like to share the gospel with this Spring. You can list out specific names or a general group of people that you come into regular contact with. These will be who you specifically pray for during the "Reach" section below.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

## Getting into Prayer .....Group time - 10 minutes

*Lord Jesus, I didn't wake up today with "gunk" in my eyes this morning, but with a plank. I went to bed last night critical of all the critics, cynical of the cynics, and upset with everyone who was upset. Have mercy on me, Lord Jesus. You are ever forbearing, merciful, and gracious with me. Have mercy on me, the self-righteous sinner in my hair-trigger judgments, irritable-heart syndrome, and withholding of kindness. As Chief cardiologist and ophthalmologist, bring your love and truth to bear on my heart and my eyes. I want to love others as you love me, and see in them what you see in them. The plank in my eye is always a bigger issue than anybody else's speck of sawdust. So transform me, set me free, help me on the new way to live. In Jesus' name, amen.*

Adapted from a prayer by Scotty Smith

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## Freedom from Being Judgmental

Matthew 7:1-6

### I. Don't Be Judgmental

Matthew 7:1-2

### II. Judgmental vs. Helpful Judgments

Matthew 7:3-5

### III. When Even Accurate Judgments Won't Help

Matt 7:6

***The new way to live sets you free from being judgmental.***

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***I never knew:***

***I need to change:***

***I should share:***

# GROWTH GROUP QUESTIONS

Week of April 8, 2018

## Getting Started .....Group time - 15 minutes

1. If there are new people in your group, do brief introductions.
2. Take a few minutes as a group to look over the *Growth Group Covenant*. (Your leader will have it at your first meeting).
3. What are a couple of your biggest “pet peeves”?
4. What is something that people tend to incorrectly assume upon first meeting you?

FOR GROWTH GROUP TIME

## Getting into God’s Word .....Group time - 40 minutes

### Read Matthew 7:1-2

1. What does Jesus warn against? What reason does He give?
2. What do you think “judge” means? it always inappropriate to judge?
3. How would you explain the difference between making a judgment and being judgmental?

### Read Matthew 7:3-5

4. Looking at verse 3, what is the problem of this picture? Looking at verse 4, how does this problem differ from the first?
5. What solution does Jesus give in verse 5? How does this help temper your understanding of the command not to judge?
6. Is it wrong to notice someone’s sin or to call something sin? What responsibility do we have to help others with their sin?  
**See also: Galatians 6:1**

### Read Matthew 7:6

7. How does this verse display a type of judgment? How does it relate to the previous illustration of the log and the speck?

### James 2:12-13

8. What is supposed to characterize our treatment of others? Why?

### Extra Time: John 4:1-30

9. How does Jesus embody the idea of not being judgmental, but still dealing with sin? What can we learn from the ways He combines grace and truth in His approach?