FBC SUMMIT

LIFE Group Discussion Guide

November 29, 2026

Matthew 7:1-6

CONVERSATION STARTERS

What are some highs or lows you experienced this past week?

What Scripture has been shaping you recently?

Where have you seen God moving in your life this week?

What did you hear in today's sermon OR read in today's passage that you would like to discuss?

What did you learn about yourself in today's sermon/passage?

What did you learn about God in today's sermon/passage?

What convicted you as you listened to today's sermon OR read in today's passage?

OPENING

Why do you think it is often easier to notice someone else's mistakes than our own?

Jesus now addresses one of the ways we can damage relationships and spiritual community: judging others while overlooking our own sin. His teaching is not a command to ignore sin or stop making wise judgments. Instead, He calls us to examine ourselves first and approach others with humility, grace, and truth.

Today we will examine how following Jesus means examining our own hearts before confronting the faults of others.

SCRIPTURE READING

Read **Matthew 7:1-6** together.

As you read, listen for:

- What Jesus warns us about when judging others
- The connection between how we judge and how we are judged
- The illustration of the speck and the log
- Why self-examination must come before helping others
- Jesus' warning about discernment in verse 6

PASSAGE SUMMARY

Jesus continues the Sermon on the Mount by addressing the way His followers relate to other people.

When Jesus says, “Do not judge, so that you won't be judged,” He is not forbidding all discernment. Other passages of Scripture clearly call believers to recognize sin, exercise wisdom, and lovingly confront one another when necessary.

Jesus is confronting a critical, self-righteous spirit—the tendency to focus on someone else's failures while ignoring our own.

The illustration of the speck and the log makes the point vividly. Before helping someone with a small problem, we must honestly examine the much larger issues in our own lives.

Verse 5 shows the right order: first remove the log from your own eye, then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

Verse 6 reminds us that humility does not mean abandoning discernment. Jesus' followers are still called to recognize what is holy, valuable, and spiritually dangerous.

Main Point: We should examine our own hearts before confronting the faults of others, approaching people with humility, grace, and truth.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What kind of “judging” is Jesus warning against in this passage?

Jesus is warning against a critical and self-righteous attitude that condemns others while ignoring our own sin. He is not telling believers to abandon discernment or pretend that sin does not matter.

Why do we tend to notice the faults of others more easily than our own?
We naturally see other people's behavior from the outside while experiencing our own motives from the inside. Pride can also make us more interested in correcting others than examining ourselves.

What does the "speck" and "log" illustration teach us about helping someone with sin?
We should examine our own lives first. Self-examination helps us approach someone with humility rather than hypocrisy. Jesus does not say to ignore the speck; He says to deal with our own log first so that we can see clearly.

How can we tell the difference between loving correction and being judgmental?
Loving correction is motivated by concern for the person and a desire for restoration. Being judgmental is often motivated by pride, condemnation, superiority, or a desire to point out someone's failures.

Why is humility essential when we confront someone about sin?
Because we are sinners who also need God's grace. Remembering our own need for forgiveness changes the way we approach others and helps us speak truth with compassion rather than superiority.

What does verse 6 teach us about the importance of discernment?
Jesus does not call His followers to accept everything without thinking. We still need wisdom to recognize what is holy, harmful, or spiritually destructive. Grace and discernment belong together.

APPLICATION

Is there a person you are tempted to criticize while overlooking your own weaknesses?

What area of your own life might God want you to examine before you confront someone else?

How can you become better at speaking truth with both grace and humility?

DIG DEEPER

Read Galatians 6:1–2. How should believers restore someone caught in sin? What attitude should they have?

Read James 4:11–12. What does James teach about speaking against and judging others?

Read Romans 14:10–13. Why should believers be careful about passing judgment on one another?

Why is self-examination necessary before helping others grow spiritually?

CLOSING THOUGHT

Jesus does not tell us to ignore sin. He tells us to begin with ourselves.

Before we point out someone else's speck, we should ask God to search our own hearts. When we honestly deal with our own sin, we are better equipped to help others with humility, grace, and truth.

Challenge
Before correcting someone this week, pause and ask:
"God, what do You want to show me about my own heart first?"

LOOKING AHEAD

Next week we will discuss **Matthew 7:7-12** as we continue the series, *The Greatest Sermon Ever Preached: The Sermon on the Mount.*

PRAYER FOCUS

- Ask God to reveal areas of pride, hypocrisy, and self-righteousness in our lives.
- Help us receive correction humbly and give correction lovingly.
- Help our LIFE Groups become places of grace, truth, accountability, and spiritual growth.
- Give us wisdom to know when and how to speak truth to others.
- Pray for our worship services—that hearts will be open, the Spirit will move powerfully, and people will respond in obedience to Christ.

COMMENTARY

Matthew 7:1–6 in the Christian Standard Bible (CSB) records Jesus's teaching on how disciples should evaluate others, cautioning against hypocritical condemnation while balancing it with spiritual discernment. The key themes of this passage are:

The Prohibition Against Censorious Judgment (Verses 1–2):

- Jesus commands, "Do not judge, so that you won't be judged".
- The Greek word *krinō* here refers to a harsh, faultfinding, or condemning attitude rather than basic moral evaluation or discernment.
- God will use the same standard of mercy or severity that a person uses when dealing with others.

The Parable of the Speck and the Beam (Verses 3–5):

- Jesus uses vivid hyperbole comparing a minor flaw in someone else (a "splinter" or "speck") to a massive obstruction in one's own eye (a "beam of wood" or "plank").

- Calling the judgmental person a hypocrite, Jesus instructs them to first address their own major sin so that they can see clearly to help their brother or sister.
- Proper correction is restorative and humble, not arrogant or destructive.

Discretion and Discernment (Verse 6):

- Jesus immediately balances the warning against hypocrisy with a call for wisdom: “Don't give what is holy to dogs or toss your pearls before pigs”.
- Disciples must still exercise discernment regarding who is openly hostile or hardened against sacred truth, avoiding futile conflict with those who will turn and attack