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 is it sometimes easier to notice what someone else is doing wrong than to notice what we are doing wrong?

We all notice other people's mistakes. Sometimes we even become experts at pointing them out. Jesus teaches us that following Him means being honest about our own sin before we try to correct someone else.

Today we will discuss how following Jesus means examining our own hearts before pointing out the faults of others.

SCRIPTURE

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

As you read, listen for:

- What Jesus says about judging others
- Why Jesus talks about a speck and a log
- What Jesus wants us to do before correcting someone
- How humility should affect the way we treat others
- Why Christians still need discernment

PASSAGE SUMMARY

Jesus is continuing His Sermon on the Mount by teaching His followers how to treat other people.

When Jesus says, “Do not judge,” He is not saying that Christians should never recognize right and wrong. The Bible teaches us to have discernment and to lovingly help one another when we are struggling with sin.

Jesus is warning against being critical, hypocritical, or self-righteous—pointing out someone else's problems while ignoring our own.

His illustration of the speck and the log makes the point clear. Before trying to help someone with a small problem, we need to honestly examine our own lives.

Jesus doesn't say to ignore the speck. He says to remove the log from your own eye first, so that you can see clearly enough to help someone else.

Main Point: Before we point out someone else's sin, we should honestly examine our own hearts and approach others with humility and grace.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What kind of “judging” is Jesus warning us about?

Jesus is warning against being critical and self-righteous—looking down on people because of their mistakes while ignoring our own. He is not telling us to stop knowing the difference between right and wrong.

Why is it sometimes easier to notice someone else's mistakes than our own?

We see other people's actions from the outside, but we often make excuses for our own behavior. Pride can also make us more interested in correcting someone else than examining ourselves.

What does the “speck” and “log” illustration teach us?

We should deal honestly with our own sin before trying to help someone else with theirs. Jesus wants us to examine ourselves first so that we can help others with humility rather than hypocrisy.

How can you tell the difference between helping someone and simply judging them?
Helping someone is motivated by love and a desire for their good. Judging someone often involves pride, embarrassment, gossip, or making ourselves feel better by pointing out their failures.

Why is humility important when we need to confront someone about something they are doing wrong?
We are not perfect either. Remembering that we need God's forgiveness helps us approach others with grace instead of acting like we are better than them.

Does "Do not judge" mean we should never tell someone when something is wrong? Why not?
No. Jesus teaches us to deal with our own sin first, but He doesn't tell us to ignore sin. Christians should use wisdom and, when appropriate, lovingly help one another follow Jesus.

APPLICATION

Is there someone you tend to criticize or judge more than you should?

What is one area of your own life that God may want you to work on first?

How could you respond differently the next time a friend needs correction?

DIG DEEPER

Read Galatians 6:1–2. How should Christians respond when someone is caught in sin?

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

Read Romans 14:10–13. Why should Christians be careful about judging one another?

Why do we need to look in the mirror before pointing a finger?

CLOSING THOUGHT

Jesus doesn't tell us to pretend sin doesn't matter. He tells us to start with ourselves. Before pointing out someone else's mistakes, ask God to show you what needs to change in your own heart.

Challenge:
The next time you are tempted to criticize someone, 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 pride and hypocrisy in our own hearts.
- Help us receive correction humbly and give correction lovingly.
- Help our LIFE Groups become places of grace, truth, and spiritual growth.
- Give us wisdom to know when and how to help others follow Jesus.
- 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