

fair fight

HOW TO
RESOLVE
CONFLICT

Small Group Discussion Questions

Playing God – No. 3 God Is Our Just Judge

January 26, 2025

Theme: How should we behave toward other believers who may be guilty of some fault or error?

Some Christians play a lot of indoor games. Among their favorites is one we might call “*Let’s Label*.” To play “*Let’s Label*,” participants need to: find something they don’t like about a person; concentrate on externals; form critical opinions; jump to inaccurate conclusions; label a person; freely share findings and labels with others...so everyone can “*pray more intelligently*.” Actually, there is another name for the game. It doesn’t sound as nice, but it is the term Jesus used in His Sermon on the Mount: judging.

Gathering Together (Icebreaker - choose one)

Have you ever had jury duty or had to appear in court? If so, what was your experience like?

If you had to choose to become a defense attorney, prosecuting attorney, or judge, which career would you select? Why?

Deep Dive into Scripture

Read Matthew 7:1-6:

1. What are some general perceptions of what it means to judge others?
2. According to Jesus, why are we often unfit to be judges (vss.3-4)? Are we ever fit to be judges?
3. Some have assumed that Jesus was forbidding all judgment. How would you respond to this suggestion? What kind of judgment does He have in mind?
4. Jesus refers to our relationship to believers (brothers and sisters) in verses 3-5 and to unbelievers (dogs and pigs) in verse 6.
 - What steps must we take to truly help a brother or sister (vs.5)? How is this possible (Gal.6:1)?
 - Why does Jesus make a distinction between the way we relate to believers and unbelievers?

Personal Application Questions

1. Share about a time when ...
 - the plank in your own eye was revealed to you
 - the speck in your eye was judged by one who had a plank in his/her own eye
 - the Holy Spirit revealed that you had wrongly judged someone
2. What are some ways that you have a tendency to judge others? Consider pairing with another group member to share...
 - Unnecessary criticism
 - Premature negative conclusions
 - Failing to see a balanced picture
 - Setting up arbitrary standards
 - Condemning those who have done wrong
 - Other:
3. How does Jesus' love and acceptance of you, in spite of your moral failures, motivate you to honor Him by not wrongly judging others?

Closing Prayer and Reflection

Following your sharing, consider breaking up your group to pray with another group member (or with two others), asking God for forgiveness and strength to replace any spirit of judgment with humility, loving actions and words.