



WEEK Nov 21 – 27

MAIN IDEA

Grace, not judgment, should be a defining marker of followers of Jesus.

CHECK IN (HIGHS & LOWS) 15 min

A great, quick way to catch the highlights of what is happening in the lives of the people in your group is to take turns quickly sharing the “highs & lows” of your week. High: What was the highlight of your week? Low: What was the low point of your week?

SETTLE IN (ICE BREAKER) 10 min

1. Have you ever had someone show you grace (unmerited favor) after you had done something wrong? What did that feel like?

DIG IN (UNDERSTANDING) 15 min

2. Read Matthew 7:1-5. This passage is in a section of Matthew called “The Sermon on the Mount” (Matthew 5-7). These three powerful chapters contain Jesus’ most influential and practical teachings. Take a minute to read this slowly and mark any parts that stick out to you.
3. Jesus begins this passage by saying, “*Do not judge, or you too will be judged*”. (7:1) Talk about how you have learned this principle in your own life. In other words, have you ever put yourself above someone else for their actions or attitudes and then found dark stuff in your own life? Talk about the wisdom God has taught you as a result of that experience.

4. Jesus uses an illustration comparing a speck of sawdust to a wooden beam (picture the beams holding up the roof of your house). Talk about how Jesus’ illustration “levels the playing field” between us and other people.
5. Why is it so easy to seek grace for our own flaws but can be so hard for other people’s flaws?
6. The point of Jesus’ teaching is to turn the attention to the relationship between the “beam” person and the “speck” person. Talk about how judgment has hindered a key relationship in your life. Talk about how dealing with your “beam” or “speck” has (or could) improve that relationship.
7. How does humility in how we deal with our own sin help us to deal humbly with other people’s sin?

GEAR UP (APPLICATION) 20 min

8. Confession is such a healthy practice in helping us humble ourselves before God. How have you integrated the spiritual rhythm of confession in your life? How will you do that this week?

STEP UP (HOMEWORK) 5 min

9. Spend time in confession this week. Whether it’s blocking out time to pray and journal your way through confession or grabbing a friend and admitting where you’ve fallen short, this confession doesn’t just clear our conscience but allows us to re-experience the grace of God.
10. Time in the Word is vital to understand the areas we fall short. God wants to convict us so that we would be faithful and repent. Here is the *What Made Jesus Mad* Bible reading plan. <https://www.bible.com/reading-plans/15452-what-made-jesus-mad>.