

Judging vs. Judgmental

John 7:24 Stop judging by mere appearances, and make a right judgment.”

Matthew 7:1-5 “Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. “Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? You **hypocrite**, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.

1 Corinthians 11:31 But if we judged ourselves, we would not come under judgment.

John 5:26-27 For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son to have life in himself. And he has given him authority to judge because he is the Son of Man.

1 Corinthians 5:9-13 I have written you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people— not at all meaning the people of this world who are immoral, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters. In that case you would have to leave this world. But now I am writing you that you must not associate with anyone who calls himself a brother but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or a slanderer, a drunkard or a swindler. With such a man do not even eat. What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those inside? God will judge those outside. “Expel the wicked man from among you.”

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

At first glance John 4:24 and Matthew 7:1 appear to contradict each other. However, the judgement that is condemned in Matthew 7 is _____ judgment.

One of the most often used reason people use for not going to church is that “the church is full of hypocrites.” What does **hypocrite** mean? _____

In Matthew 7:1-5, does Jesus say not to judge at all? When and what should we judge? _____

(1 Corinthians 11:31)

What sort of things do you think people feel judged about in church? In what ways do we judge other around us? _____

Unbelievers sometimes say that churchgoers are sooo judgmental because they say everyone else is going to hell. Who is it who actually decides who goes to heaven or hell (John 5:26-27)? Should we compromise the gospel message so as not to offend them? _____

Read Matthew 9:10-12 from your Bible. The Jewish leaders take Jesus to task for associating with a tax collector. How effective would evangelism be if we never had contact with an unsaved person? _____

Read all of 1 Corinthians 5. The people of the church in Corinth tried to be like the Jews, not associating with “unclean” types. However, those who were calling themselves Christians seem to have stopped judging themselves. What happens when no one exercises good judgement within a church? How would people outside of the group view them? _____

Occasionally the church leaders must confront improper behavior. What kind of situations do you think would that be?

With Hebrews 4:12 in mind, suggest a better way to help sinful people stop sinning and be better Christians.

Lesson Plan: Judge vs. Judgmental

The Goal: This is a good follow up lesson to “The Beauty Inside” where we talked about judging others on inner beauty or outward appearances. The kids asked to look into this subject of judging in more detail.

The goal of this lesson is to teach kids not to be judgmental towards others but to judge their own actions against the Word.

Pre Lesson Activity: Serve the kids grits. Put a sign by the grits labeling them as “Hippo-grits.” In some parts of the U.S. grits are a normal part of every breakfast. I, for one, like them. However, most kids will turn up their noses. It will be fun just to try and get them to eat some. As corny as it sounds make a point of the pun of calling the grits “Hippo-grits” when you talk about hypocrites. They will be rolling their eyes but they’ll remember the lesson on hypocrites for a long time.

Leading the lesson:

Spend some time in prayer the day before, going over the verses and questions in your mind. Write possible answers on your copy of the worksheet along with additional notes of things you’d like to bring up.

If your group is younger junior-high age encourage them to fill in the blanks with the correct answers and hand in their papers at the end of class. For older kids, especially high-school age, just use the questions as discussion starters.

Have a kid read the first set of verses and then go thru the questions of the matching color. Give them time to answer. Listen to what they say and lead the discussion with additional questions of your own to lead them to the correct answers.

Note: When reading, kids will frequently stumble on words they do not know. Explain the meaning of the words so they can fully grasp the concept of the Bible verse. Sometimes you must restate the passage in your own words for them to get it.

Many kids have heard the excuse “the church is full of hypocrites” leveled by their friends who don’t attend. Sometimes, in order to counteract looking hypocritical, a Christian will choose to suspend making any judgments at all. This Christian is easy prey to false teachers because they neglected to “judge” what their are hearing against the Word of Truth. If this attitude is prevalent amongst church leaders confrontation for improper behavior or teaching within the church is shied away from. This fosters a lax attitude towards truth and sanctified living. This perpetuates the belief of non-Christians that the Church is full of hypocrites.

Summary:

Finish by talking about the lesson of Hebrews 4:12. Lead them to realize that by reading the Word and then applying it to our lives will help us be better people. It will give us a standard by which to make “right judgments” about our behaviors, motivations and attitudes. The goal of the church should be to make the word of God known, then allow the Holy Spirit in each of us to do the work of conviction and correction.

Take Prayer Requests

Always ask the kids for prayer requests for the next week. Review the prayer requests from previous weeks and see how things turned out.



Try some. Their gerreat!