



Community Groups are used extensively as the primary vehicle for discipleship at The Gathering and run on a quarter system. There is one in the fall, one in the winter and one in the spring. During the summer weeks we don't meet in Community Groups but we still offer the Growth Guides as a tool to help you grow personally. The Growth Guides are designed to help you dig deeper into the weekly sermon on your own or with your family and are available each week along with the note sheets at church as well as online.

**USE THIS GUIDE TO PREPARE FOR THE DISCUSSIONS IN COMMUNITY GROUP.**

### Consider...

*Use the summary and discussion below to review and apply this week's message:*

#### **The Big Idea**

*We need to judge with our eyes on the cross and our hearts full of grace.*

#### **Message Summary**

*This week we tackle one of the most misunderstood verses in the Bible and try to understand what Jesus was really saying when He told us not to judge. Surprisingly, the most important question isn't should we judge, but how we should judge. In the end, it ultimately points all of us to the cross, and that's the best place to meet the Judge.*

#### **Discuss**

*Use the following questions to review and apply the points learned in the message.*

- Think of a time when you have been judged in a critical, negative way by another Christian. What did it feel like? Now can you recall a time when you criticized someone else? How do you suppose that person felt?
- How might you respond if you heard somebody say, "The problem with Christians is that they're just way too judgmental"?
- What does Jesus warn will be the consequences of being a critical, judgmental person?
- How would you tell the parable of the speck and the plank to someone else in your own words?
- In what areas do you tend to be most judgmental toward other people? What can you do to make sure that the "planks" in your own eye are removed and taken out of the way?
- Read the following passages. How can they help us learn how to "judge without being judgmental?" John 7:24; James 4:11-12; Romans 2:1-3; Ephesians 4:29; Proverbs 31:9; 1 Corinthians 2:15
- Why is it important to see God as both a Father and a Judge? What do we lose if we forget one?