
A Year in the Word

A Year in the Word: Start Here: Part 3

Small Group Questions: How to Judge Someone

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Read

John 7:24; Matthew 7:1-6

Reflect

“Do not judge” might be the second most well-known verse of the Bible. It is certainly the most quoted verse in the Bible and it has the distinction of being quoted as much by people who aren’t Christians as by those who are! It’s obvious why we get so hung up on judgment – if only people took the time to understand us, they wouldn’t judge us! But do we take the time to extend that courtesy to others before we judge them? What about you – when was the last time you realized you judged someone too quickly? Has there been a time when someone unfairly judged you? Why do you think that it’s important to Jesus that we judge the right way, instead of not judging at all?

Pastor Darrin Patrick gave us two principles for judging:

1. We create a culture of judgment.
 - a. What are some ways that we judge each other in our culture?
 - b. Do you ever catch yourself mentally judging another person? What do you do when that happens?
2. We must judge ourselves as we judge others.
 - a. Why do you think it’s so easy to see small sins in others but ignore our own, larger sins?

There are three things we need to remember if we are going to judge someone:

1. We judge carefully.
 - a. What happens when we don’t judge carefully?
 - b. Have you ever had someone take the time to give you careful, considered judgment? What was that like?
2. We judge thoroughly.
 - a. If you were cleaning out a cut on your child’s leg, how much dirt would you leave in the cut?
 - i. In the same way, how much thoroughness and carefulness do we owe our friends and family when we offer them our judgment?
 - b. Pastor Darrin reminded us that we are to judge actions and attitudes, but not motives. Why is that so important? Why is it so hard?
3. We judge relationally.
 - a. Imagine you heard someone judging a stranger, and then another person judging a good friend of yours. Would you react differently in the second case? Why?
 - i. Our friends and family need our judgment in their lives, just as we need theirs.
 - b. When is the last time you told someone the truth about them?
 - c. When is the last time someone told you the truth about you?

Respond: Where is God leading you? How can your small group support you?