



SESSION #4

LUKE 6:37-42

LEADER GUIDE

BIG IDEA: JUDGE OTHERS AND OURSELVES BY THE SAME STANDARD

Group Time:

- On their student guides, ask each person to write on the paper three things about themselves - two that are true and one that is false. When everyone is done writing, have each person read their list to the group and have the group guess which is the lie.
- What are the two most significant things that happened to you in the last year?
- Any lingering questions you still wonder about from the sermon? Any new thoughts that you had?

Bible Time:

- **Do:** Divide the group into two halves. Give each half one of the following scenarios and directions from below. Try to move the two halves so that they can't hear each other. Answers may be written on the Student Guide.
 - Scenario 1: Someone at work is late and you have to do their job for them until they get to work. List five reasons why they're late.
 - Scenario 2: You're late for work. You're trying to get to work as fast as you can in order to relieve the person who's there right now, filling in for you. List five reasons why you're late.
- **Ask:** Ask each group to share their answers.
- **Leader Note:** When things go wrong for us, we usually attribute the problem to factors outside of ourselves - I'm late because traffic is bad, there was an emergency I had to deal with, etc. But when things go wrong for other people, we sometimes attribute the problem to internal factors, such as character flaws - they're late because they're lazy, they don't care about other people, etc. See if the lists from the two halves of your group line up with this principle.
- **Ask:** Why are we so quick to let ourselves off the hook, but so quick to condemn others? Besides being late to work, what are other areas in our lives where these same things happen?
- **Say:** Because of our sinful nature, we naturally judge ourselves by a different standard than we judge others. We ought to use the same standard - both in forgiveness and correction.
- **Say:** Have two halves switch lists. Have the half that initially did scenario 1 read verses 37-38 aloud.



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- **Ask:** What speaks to us from these verses? How would you react differently if, instead of your initial set of answers, you assumed the things on this list were true of your co-worker?
- **Leader Note:** Hopefully the first time around this group wrote answers like, “They’re late because they’re lazy and don’t care about others.” Now the list they have will hopefully read, “I’m late because my mom called to tell me my dad’s in the hospital, or because there was an accident on the freeway.” We would react very differently if we assumed the second set of things were true, instead of the first!
- **Do:** Have the group that initially did scenario 2 read verses 39-42 aloud.
- **Ask:** What do these verses say to us? How would you react differently if, instead of your initial answers, you assumed that the things on this list were true of you?”
- **Leader Note:** Hopefully this will be a reversal of the last question. Hopefully this group wrote about how they were justified in being late the first time around, but now they hold a list that says they’re late because of flaws in their character. We react much differently when we assume we are part of the problem - and can contribute to the solution - rather than assuming we are just helpless victims of outside forces!
- **Do:** Have members of the group pair off by gender (or if your group is comfortable with each other, stay together for the following discussion). In each pair, have each partner answer only one of the following sets of questions. There is space to write answers on the Student Guide, although some group members may prefer to simply talk through the questions.
 - **Set 1**
 1. Is there a person hard for you to resist condemning? What do they do that makes it so hard?
 2. If you were in their shoes, and you did what they do, what might some of your reasons be for doing those things?
 3. How would it change your relationship with them if you were gracious in your judgment of them, rather than condemning?
 - **Set 2**
 1. Is there a sin in your life that you treat like it’s no big deal? (You might say things like “It just happens. Everyone deals with it sometimes.”)



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2. If someone you love (a spouse or best friend) consistently dealt with the same sin, would you think it's a big deal?

 3. How would dealing with that particular sin make you better able to help others, like Jesus says in verse 42?
- **Leader Note:** Encourage members of your group to continue this discussion with one another or a close friend (the close friend might be more comfortable). Ongoing confession of and conversation about our sins can go a long way toward helping us change.
 - **Ask:** Is there anything we learn from Jesus' words that we need to reconsider? What is the biggest take away from Jesus' words?

Group Time:

- **Pray:** Have everyone pray for the particular issues his or her partner (or the person next to them if you stayed together) brought up. If there was confidential information exchanged be careful not to share names or particulars from the situation. Then the leader should pray to close the lesson.