

JUDGE NOT

Sermon on the Mount | Family Devotion | Week 12

The Passage

Matthew 7:1-5

Questions

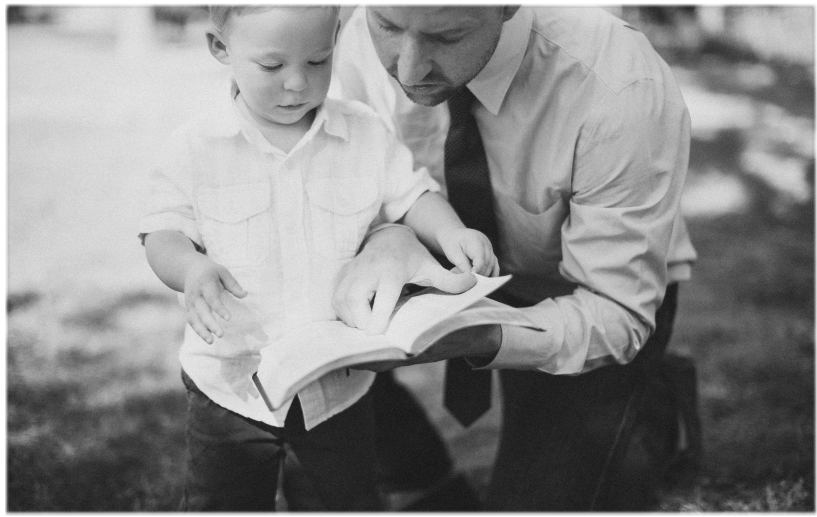
When is the last time you felt judged or called out?

Jesus gives the example of a log and a speck. What does this example mean?

How can we as a family be less critical of those around us?

Prayer

God... thank you that you are wonderful. We don't deserve your love and mercy. Help us to put aside the bitterness and criticism we so often level at those around us. We want to see and evaluate people with your eyes and with your heart. Help our family to see others as you see them, as desperately in need of your grace.



The Story

“What they are doing is wrong!” It is a cry can be heard everywhere. From boardrooms to playgrounds, from hospitals to classrooms, and from worksites to soccer fields, we all resonate with seeing someone doing “something” wrong and wanting to stop them in their tracks. But as Christians, are we supposed to judge? Doesn't God call us to be above judging others? In Matthew 7, Jesus lays it right down for us... “Judge not, that you be not judged.” Pretty simple, right? Don't judge! End of story, next page... And hasn't our world just confirmed this for us? Haven't we heard “don't judge me” a thousand times (maybe even said it ourselves every now and then)? But what if there is more to the story? Jesus, in this passage, is not talking about the judgement between right and wrong, the discernment we need to live in a broken world. In fact, God calls us to stand for truth. So what does Jesus mean when he say “judge not?” The term “judge” in this passage actually means “unfair judgement.” In calling us to “judge not,” he is calling us to step way from the unfair judgements of our broken world, leading us out of criticism, hypocrisy, and the bitterness with which we sometimes look at those made in God's image. In staying with the theme of the rest of the sermon, Jesus is inviting us to step beyond our standards and into the reality of his new kingdom. He calls us to stand for what is right, good, and holy. But he also asks us to never forget that our judgement is to emulate God's, and his judgement has looked on us with mercy.