



# STUDY GUIDE

## JAMES: Week 10 8.11.13

### [set up]

Have you ever had someone judge you for a decision you made or action you chose? Did they address you face to face or communicate their judgment to others? How did you deal with that?

Do you find yourself judging the actions and motives of others? Can you think of an example? Were you ever confronted on it or feel conviction over it?

What draws us in to judging others so easily?

### [digging deeper]

One of the most quoted Bible verses is Matt. 7:1. What is it and what do people actually mean when they quote it? When you read the verses that follow, up to V. 5, how does it show that most people don't fully understand this verse when they quote it?

How do these verses help us better understand why we are not to judge others from an attitude of critical condemnation?

James 4:11,12      Luke 6:37,38  
Rom. 2:1-3          Rom. 14:1-18  
1 Cor. 4:3-5

In various places of Scripture we are warned to watch out for others who are false teachers or people that are insincere or have ill intent or believers living a sinful lifestyle (Matt. 7:6,15-23; Romans 16:17,18). How can we actually do that without exercising some level of judgment?

How do these verses support the idea of exercising judgment in our lives and relationships?

1 Cor. 2:15  
1 Cor. 5:1-13  
1 Cor. 6:1-5 Prov. 27:6

How does Jesus help us understand how to exercise appropriate judgment in the efforts of bringing restoration to a relationship with a fellow Christian in Matthew 18:15-18? How do Gal. 6:1-5 and James 5:19,20 help add to that approach?

If you confront a fellow believer out of love and they accuse you of judging them, what would be your response?

Where is the line between being biblically discerning and using caring confrontation verses being being hypocritical, judgmental and condemning?



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## [living it out]

Interact with the following questions and then close in a time of prayer, praying over the realizations you have made during this time:

On a scale of 1(low) - 10 (high) how judgmental do you think you are?

On a scale of 1(low) - 10 (high) how effective are you at exercising biblical judgment to lovingly help other believers grow and address sin issues in their lives?

Am I more bothered by my sins and failures or the sins and failures of others?

Do I overlook or dismiss the sins in my life but easily spot and point it out the sins and failures in the lives of others?

Have I held others to the letter of the law, but expected or operated out of grace for myself?

Have I given myself the benefit of the doubt in situations, because I knew my heart and motives, but refused the benefit of the doubt for others because I questioned and judged their motives?

Is there anyone that comes to mind that you may have hurt because you were judgmental with them? Pray for them and if possible, reach out and ask for their forgiveness.

Is there another believer that you care about that has a "speck" in their eye and God has given you a burden to help/gently confront them? Pray for them and over yourself and engage them when and how The Lord leads.

Do you feel like there are any "logs" in your eye right now that you need to deal with?