



## “God Doesn’t Judge Anyone, and Neither Should You”

### Prayer

### Introductory Activity

**Focus:** Our world promotes the idea of tolerance. In fact, the only sin is to say that someone else is wrong! *Tolerance* is the concept that truth is determined by each person, not by the moral absolutes of God. The reason this lie is so appealing is that people want to have freedom to do anything they want. They don’t want you or their conscience getting in the way. In this lesson, we will explore what God’s Word says about judging.

### Activity:

**Devil’s Advocate.** In your groups pick two readers (to look up and read the passages), a leader (to make sure the discussion moves forward), a devil’s advocate (to take the position outlined below), and an answer person (to answer the devil’s advocate with a biblical response).

Read the following passages as a group and comment on what they say about judging.

Matthew 7:2,15,16,21-24

John 7:24

Romans 2:1



Galatians 6:1

Ephesians 4:15

2 Timothy 2:25;3:16

Now the answerer and the devil's advocate will discuss these issues. Devil's advocate: Start the conversation with the quote below.

- “You are just like the Pharisees—always judging! Who are you to tell me that my church isn't right or that what I'm doing is wrong? Don't you know that Jesus said, 'Don't judge!' ”?

## **Judge for Yourself**

1. God does judge. What do the following passages say about judgment?

Psalm 9:8—“He rules the world in righteousness and judges the peoples with equity.”

John 12:47,48—“If anyone hears my words but does not keep them, I do not judge that person. For I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world. There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words; the very words I have spoken will condemn them at the last day.”

Acts 17:31—“For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.”

- Think about it! What false ideas do people hold who think God does not judge?

2. God tells us to make judgments out of love.

James 5:19,20—“My brothers and sisters, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring that person back, remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of their way will save them from death and cover over a multitude of sins.”

- What is at stake if one does not judge?

3. Read Matthew 18:15-22. How does this portion of Scripture demonstrate that God’s delight is not catching people in their sins but forgiving them?

4. Jesus tells us to warn someone of their sin in progressive steps. Why? If Jesus expects that the admonishment by the entire church might have the greatest impact, why not just start with that?

5. How did Jesus treat pagans and tax collectors? How does that shape the way you treat someone who has not repented of a sin?

6. But what about Jesus’ opening words in Matthew 7, “Do not judge, or you too will be judged”?

- Read Matthew 7:1-5. Take 30 seconds on your own to think about what Jesus is actually saying about judgment in these verses. Write down your answer and share your thoughts with your group.

## Group Discussion

- Respond to the following people:

“That church kicked me out!”

“Haven’t you ever heard of ‘Love your neighbor as yourself?’ ”

“This is my life! I don’t poke my nose into your life and judge you!”

“Who are you to judge two men who love each other? We are all sinners anyway.”

- List some instances when judging is inappropriate.
  
- Of the many things to keep in mind when witnessing to someone who says, “Don’t judge,” what, in your opinion, is the most important? Explain.
  
- People who hold to this lie envision a utopia in the church and unity in diversity of opinion in society. How would (does) this concept of “no judging” play out practically in the church and our world?

## Closing Activity

**Making Metaphors and Synthesizing Similes.** Come up with an original metaphor or simile for the concept of failing to make judgments. “Failure to judge is (like) . . .