

Day 1: We should help each other with sin, but with the right attitude.

Read Matthew 7:1-5, and ask your children:

1. What kind of judgment will you receive?
2. Why is it hard to notice the speck in someone's eye?
3. What should you do first?
4. Should you help your brother?

Jesus encourages people to consider how they judge. You should not forget that you too are a sinner. So when you see sin in another person's life, your first thought should be to consider your own sin. Once you have taken care of your own sin, Jesus does say that is the point that you can help someone else. You can remove their speck, but only after you've taken the plank out of your own.

Day 2: We should judge with mercy, knowing God has shown us mercy.

Read James 4:11-12, and ask your children:

1. Why is it wrong to speak against other believers?
2. What happens to you when you sit as a judge over the Law?
3. Who is the True Lawgiver and Judge?
4. What can He do?

Earlier, James has said that we better judge with mercy, because mercy has been shown to us. Here, he reminds us that when we sit as a judge over other believers, we usually are not doing the Law ourselves. This means we can be tempted to ignore our sin while we are pointing out someone else's. Instead, we should remember that Jesus is the True Judge.

Day 3: God judges by looking to the heart.

Read 1 Peter 2:21-25, and ask your children:

1. Had Christ done anything wrong?
2. Were the people treating Jesus as if He were innocent?
3. Who did Jesus keep His focus on?
4. What did Christ do for our judgment?

When it says people were reviling and insulting Jesus, it means they were accusing Him of sin. He was hanging between two thieves and people would certainly think He was guilty. But Jesus found comfort in knowing that God sees His heart and knows that He is innocent. That's how God sees us as innocent, because He sees that we love Jesus!

Day 4: God judges us, but does not condemn us.

Read 1 Corinthians 11:27-32, and ask your children:

1. What were some people doing wrong with the Lord's supper?
2. What was happening to some who were sinning?
3. How could a person avoid being judged?
4. How is the Lord's judgment a sign of love?

Some people in Corinth were abusing the communion meal. They were rushing to the table and pigging out. Paul warned that such an attitude was sinful and that God was judging some people by them getting sick or even dying. He encouraged people to judge their own life, then they would not have to worry about God judging. But God's judgment is to keep us faithful, and to keep us from being condemned like the world.