

Read **Matthew 7:1-6** and discuss the following.

Jesus tells us to not be judgmental of others. What reasoning does He give to support this warning?

Does this mean we are to *never* judge actions or ideas as right or wrong? Why or why not? How is discernment different from condemnation?

Jesus gives us an example of this wrong kind of judging (**v.3-4**). Share an example of how you've been guilty of seeing another's "speck" while missing or ignoring your own "plank".

Given what is said here, how might you define hypocrisy?

What are we to make of **v.6**? How does it clarify what Jesus says above in **v.1**?

Read **Matthew 7:7-12** and discuss the following.

In your own words, describe what Jesus is telling us to do. How does He reinforce this charge and encouragement? To put it another way, why should we confidently do what He's telling us?

Consider the example Jesus provides here. What's the point?

How do you see this last passage (**v.7-12**) connecting with the previous passage (**v.1-6**)? Explain.

Jesus gives the 'Golden Rule' (**v.12**) to us in the positive form— "*whatever you wish that others would do to you do also to them.*" How would a negative form of this command ("*do not do to others what you would not want them to do to you*") miss the fullness of the overall meaning? How does the 'Golden Rule' summarize the main idea of Jesus' sermon? Explain.

Looking at the whole passage (**v.1-12**), how might one avoid hypocrisy? What role does prayer and humility play?

What about this passage has most comforted and/or convicted you personally?