

## ACT JUSTLY (Part 2) Matthew 7:1-5

As you gather to hear and apply God's Word, start by sharing how you were influenced by the previous study since your group last met. Use the following questions for review.

### **D** Debrief & Interpret

- How did you apply the previous Scripture study?
- What did you learn about God as you applied the Word? What did you learn about yourself?

### **H** Hear the Word

*We live in a society of comparisons, judging ourselves against others without taking the time to understand their perspectives. Let's see what Jesus teaches about comparison and criticism in this excerpt from his famous Sermon on the Mount.*

#### **Read Matthew 7:1-5:**

<sup>1</sup> "Do not judge, or you too will be judged. <sup>2</sup> For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. <sup>3</sup> "Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? <sup>4</sup> How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? <sup>5</sup> You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

#### **Discuss:**

1. When examining the first two verses, what does Jesus say about judging others?
2. How can you summarize what Jesus is trying to communicate using the speck/plank word picture in vv. 3-5?
3. Why do you think it's easier to look at the speck in someone else's eye than to pay attention to the plank in your own eye (v. 3)? What does this say about human nature?
4. How does one take the plank out of one's own eye (v. 5)?

### **R** Respond Actively

As you end your study, choose one or both options below to apply the Scripture to your life this week.

- *Internal:* Think about a situation or occasion when you have judged or criticized someone else recently. In what way does that criticism reflect a "plank in your own eye?" How do you need to change? Take a moment to ask Jesus to help take the plank out of your own eye this week. Choose 1-2 concrete steps you can take to do so.
- *External:* When we notice people judging or criticizing others, we can be a witness for Christ by how we respond. Considering this passage, what are some appropriate and Christ-like responses when you hear such criticism? In the coming week, put these responses into practice whenever you see these occurrences in clinicals or in school.

