

## **SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE**

August 16, 2020 // Why are Christians so judgmental when they talk about grace all the time?

### **Passages:**

Luke 6:37, Matthew 7:1-2, Matthew 18:23-35, John 13:34-35

### **APPETIZER:**

Have someone read the passages for the day (except Matthew 18:23-35). What stands out to you?

QUESTION: Do you find that Christians generally follow Jesus' instructions in these passages? Why or why not?

### **MAIN COURSE:**

QUESTION: Do you think that this question correctly assumes that Christians are judgmental? Why or why not?

QUESTION: The sermon outlined a survey by the Barna group that showed that only 15% of non-Christians see a good noticeable difference in the lives of Christians. Why do you think that is?

QUESTION: Caleb told stories of when people expected him to be judgmental because he was a Christian. Have you experienced this? What was that like?

QUESTION: In Matthew 7:1-2, Jesus tells us that how we measure or judge others is how we will be measured or judged. If that's true, how will you be measured? Will you meet your own standards?

Caleb suggested two possible reasons that Christians can be judgmental sometimes:

1. People in general are naturally judgmental, and we are only human
2. We love God so much that we desperately want to see his commands followed, but we forget to love people when we tell them about those commands

QUESTION: Which of these possible reasons do you think is true? Do you think there is another reason? If so, what is it?

Read the parable of the unforgiving servant (Matthew 18:23-35)

QUESTION: Do you think the servant deserved to be forgiven of his debt? Do you think he deserved to be punished when the king found out he refused to forgive after he had been forgiven? Why or why not?

### **DESSERT:**

QUESTION: Caleb kept returning to Jesus' point that ***we must be known by our love.*** Do you think Christians today are known by their love?

QUESTION: Do you think that the non-Christians who know you know you for your love? Why or why not?

QUESTION: What can you be doing in your life to ensure that everyone around you knows you are Jesus' disciple because of your love?

**Spend time with the group praying and reflecting on how you can be showing the world you are Jesus' disciple by your love. Pray that God gives you opportunities to show his love to the world.**