



### **Part 3: You Be The Judge**

In our quest to become less judgmental and more compassionate, inevitably there will be times when we have to make decisions about what is right and wrong. We'll have times of conflict and need to struggle with what to do. When that happens, we might ask ourselves, how can we make good judgments without being judgmental?

#### **Ice Breaker**

Do you prefer cats or dogs? What was your favourite pet... what was your pet's name?

#### **Introduction**

Have you ever wondered how to resolve the tension between making good judgments and trying not to be judgmental? Where in life have you felt that tension?

#### **Review Matthew 7:6**

1. What do you think Jesus is trying to teach in this verse? How does it connect to what he has been teaching about not judging others in the previous 5 verses?

#### **Read Matthew 7:7-11**

2. What is Jesus trying to teach us about God's character?
3. How do you think Jesus wants us to relate to Him based on these verses? Does that challenge the default way you think about who God is?
4. The next verse (v12) is the Golden Rule. How would your outlook on other people change if you practiced this rule regularly?
5. Are there people or groups of people that you find very challenging to apply this teaching to? What are some steps you could take to make this a regular practice in your life?

#### **Moving Forward**

Read Matthew 7:15-20 and Galatians 5:22-26. Why is 'fruit' a good metaphor in this context? How do you think you can recognize the fruit of other people's lives? Our own lives?

#### **Prayer**

Pray for any areas of your life that you feel convicted about as we continue to discuss being judgmental. Ask for wisdom and the power of God's Spirit as you trust Him to continue to bear fruit in your lives.