



Icebreaker



- When was a time you were completely misunderstood maybe due to a costume or movie reference?
- If people judged you based on your grocery cart, what would they assume about you?



Discussion Questions



- Jesus said, "Do not judge." What do you think most people believe that means?
- The sermon said, "There's a difference between discernment and dominion." How would you describe that difference in your own words?
- When have you experienced someone judging you unfairly? How did that make you feel?
- How do you tend to react when you realize you've misjudged someone?
- Jesus says to take the plank out of your own eye first. What might that look like in daily life?
- What keeps us from examining our own hearts before evaluating others?
- The message said, "Mercy received should always become mercy released." What's one way you could live that out this week?
- Have you ever tried to help someone who didn't want help? What did you learn from that?
- How can we love people who reject truth without forcing "pearls before pigs"?
- Jesus connects this passage to the Golden Rule: "Do to others what you would have them do to you." What would change if we lived that daily?



Thought for the Group



Jesus' words, "Do not judge," are some of the most quoted—and most misunderstood—lines in the Bible. In this message, we learn that Jesus wasn't telling us to ignore truth or avoid accountability; He was showing us how to approach others with humility and grace. There's a big difference between discernment and dominion.

Discernment recognizes right and wrong; dominion tries to declare who's worthy or unworthy. The first helps correct behavior, the second condemns people. Only God gets to sit in that seat of judgment.

Jesus calls us to check our own hearts before calling out someone else's. We're quick to notice the "speck" in another person's eye while ignoring the "plank" in our own. But humility starts with self-examination—letting God deal with our sin first so we can lovingly help others with theirs.

When Jesus talks about "pearls before pigs," He's not being harsh; He's being wise. Some people aren't ready to receive truth yet, and forcing it only leads to frustration. Love knows when to speak and when to wait.

In the end, Jesus ties everything together with the Golden Rule: "Do to others what you would have them do to you." If we want mercy, we must show mercy. If we want understanding, we must offer understanding.



Next Steps



- This week, be intentional about extending grace where you might normally critique. When you're tempted to judge, remind yourself, "The measure I use will be measured back to me."
- Don't distance yourself from people who need grace, but don't force what isn't ready either. Pray for discernment to know when to step in, when to step back, and how to stay close enough to care.