

The Gospel Changes Everything *Small Group Discussion*

TEN

REMOVE THE LOG FIRST!

DISCUSSION OVERVIEW

This discussion will center on the speck and log conversation – how can we consider judging others while we’re wrestling with our own sin? It has to start with us!

SERIES OVERVIEW

Why have so many efforts to change our world proven ineffective, or even destructive? What does it mean to be a faithful presence of Christ in this world? This series will explore how the church can play a role in affecting positive change. The gospel, rather than politics or worldly power or wealth or social media or reclusiveness, changes everything.

POSSIBLE FURTHER DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What does scripture say?
- What does culture say?
- Which voices are speaking to you too quietly or too loudly?
- Where does Christ come into play / redeem this?
- How is this issue helping or hindering human flourishing?
- Where is the hope misplaced here?
- How can you lean into gospel power vs. weight of this issue?
- How does this affect our small group?
- How can you be a faithful presence in your life?

LOOK *What do we see around us and in our lives?*

Which of the “judge” TV shows is your favorite? Competition shows, court TV, etc. Why?

BOOK *What does Scripture say about this?*

Matthew 7:1-6

¹“Do not judge, or you too will be judged. ²For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. ³“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? ⁴How 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? ⁵You 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. ⁶“Do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to pigs. If you do, they may trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces.

Who do you find easiest to judge or criticize?

Possible Answers: myself, my spouse, roommate, parents, kids, boss, strangers

We need to consider our own heart first (and continually) before we turn to others:

G – Gospel reality: we need to start here.

U – Utter dependence on the Holy Spirit

P – Pathway: turn from sin toward God.

A – Accountability: who are the trusted voices that will help you fight sin?

Which aspect of “GUPA” is easiest for you to embrace & lean into? Which is hardest to address in your life? How about in our small group?

Answers will vary.

The Gospel Changes Everything *Small Group Discussion*

Story of the Good News of Jesus.

Creation

God makes all things and they are good

Fall

God's people turn away from God, things are broken. Death and sin rule over all things.

Redemption

God, through Jesus' death and resurrection, rescues his people and defeats death and sin.

Restoration

Jesus returns to be with his people, end all brokenness, and make all things right.

THE GOSPEL *The Good News of Jesus*

Have you embraced your “righteous judgment” identity in Jesus? What is keeping you from believing this – either the big-picture scale or on a daily basis?

Leaders: Encourage group members to honestly share/assess what sins are keeping them from trusting Jesus. This may be more personally answered in your accountability time. You may revisit Romans 6-8 together or on an individual basis. Perhaps consider joining Steve and his Romans podcast in the coming weeks. More info can be found at hopecc.com.

How can we be a better reflection of Jesus as we humbly address tough conversations vs. strictly criticize or judge others?

Answers will vary.

Accountability/Reflection

Share together and pray for each other

TOOK *What will you take away from today's discussion?*

Possible questions to consider:

Consider what God is telling you *stop, start, change, or continue.*

What part of the gospel do you forget and need to remember this week?

Who do you know who needs to know the truth you discussed today?