

Now I See Small Group Guide

Warm-up Question: (Choose one, make up your own, or skip this part all together, depending upon the nature of your group.)

1. Do you wear contacts or glasses? If so, when did you first start wearing them?
2. What is one place you would really like to travel to?

Read the following passage: Matthew 7:1-5.

The best known verse in the Bible is no longer John 3:16, it is Matthew 7:1: “Do not judge others...” Our concern not to be judged by others often leads to an unwillingness to deal honestly with the sin in our own lives. But nobody wins when we walk around with planks in our own eyes and an inability to help others with the specks in their eyes. We need to choose to address the issues in our own lives (with the help of others), so that we can see well to serve those around us.

Questions for Discussion (Choose several that are relevant for your group):

1. Are there any environments in which you find yourself especially concerned that you might be judged by others? Explain. From the opposite perspective, what is wrong with not caring about anybody’s else’s opinion about what’s going on in your life?
2. How does the grace of God help us be honest about the sin in our own lives? How do the holiness and justice of God come together with the grace and mercy of God on the cross?
3. What are some of the ways addressing our own sin first can impact how we talk to others about the sin in their lives?
4. Read Psalm 51. What does this psalm teach us about repentance and restoration?
5. Why might focusing on our circumstances rather than our own attitudes and behaviors ultimately lead to frustration and a lack of progress?
6. Are you inviting other people into your life to help you with the “specks” they might see? If so, how?
7. After Lazarus was resuscitated, Jesus told those who were standing nearby to help unwrap him. What qualities do we need to cultivate in our lives to be the kind of people who can help others get free of their “grave clothes”?

8. Is there anything in your life right now that you want to confess to others?

Pray