

## Connection Group Discussion Questions

For the week of October 11, 2015

Matthew 7:1-5

### **New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)**

<sup>1</sup> Do not judge, so that you may not be judged. <sup>2</sup> For with the judgment you make you will be judged, and the measure you give will be the measure you get. <sup>3</sup> Why do you see the speck in your neighbor's eye, but do not notice the log in your own eye? <sup>4</sup> Or how can you say to your neighbor, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' while the log is in your own eye? <sup>5</sup> You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your neighbor's eye.

### **Common English Bible (CEB)**

<sup>1</sup> Don't judge, so that you won't be judged. <sup>2</sup> You'll receive the same judgment you give. Whatever you deal out will be dealt out to you. <sup>3</sup> Why do you see the splinter that's in your brother's or sister's eye, but don't notice the log in your own eye? <sup>4</sup> How can you say to your brother or sister, 'Let me take the splinter out of your eye,' when there's a log in your eye? <sup>5</sup> You deceive yourself! First take the log out of your eye, and then you'll see clearly to take the splinter out of your brother's or sister's eye.

### **Connection Questions:**

1. Do you think the statement, "Love the sinner, hate the sin," is positive or negative? Explain your answer.

2. Do you believe sin is a human condition with which we are all faced?
  
3. The Hebrew word in the Bible for sin is ghata or hamartica which means to stray from the path or miss the mark. Theologians have said humanity has a bent toward sinning. Do you believe as Christians we can move beyond our sinful condition?
  
4. The Jewish Law was an attempt by well-intended people along with help from God, to put boundaries and structure around who they understood God to be. Describe how the Jewish Law was effective in this task; what were some of the issues it presented?
  
5. Pride is a high or inordinate opinion of one's own dignity, importance, merit or superiority. How does the issue of human pride play itself among the religious leaders of the Jewish faith in the Old Testament and in the New Testament?

6. When Jesus said we are made free from The Law, what do you think he meant?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. In verse 5 of our text Jesus uses the word hypocrite which means an actor in a play. When he says to his Jewish listeners don't be a hypocrite, what do you think he meant?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. Is it possible to demonstrate God's love and not be a hypocrite? Explain.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. Can we be open, honest, vulnerable, graceful, and respectful in the choices we make in life, even the tough ones? What do you think Jesus meant when he said take the log out of your own eye before you take the speck out of another?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
10. Love the sinner, hate the sin. Jesus never used this statement. Upon reflection, how do you think Jesus would have reacted to this statement?