

Sticks & Stones, Motives & Measures

Small Group Discussion Guide • Matthew 7:1–12

April 12, 2026 • Sierra Vista Presbyterian Church

Discussion Questions

1. Matthew 7:1 is one of the most quoted yet most misunderstood verses in the Bible. What do you think it means to “Judge not?” Is there ever an appropriate time to judge someone?
2. The Greek word used for “judge” in these verses, “krino,” can be translated to mean “to discern” or “to condemn.” What is the difference between practicing discernment toward others and condemning others?
3. Jesus uses the deliberately absurd image of a log in your own eye while trying to remove a speck from someone else’s. What does the image expose about the human tendency toward self-righteous criticism? Why do you think it is easier to judge others more harshly than we judge ourselves?
4. What does the story of the prophet Nathan’s rebuke of King David (2 Sam. 12:1-6) reveal about the dangers of leaving a log in one’s own eye unaddressed for a long time?
5. Jesus doesn’t condemn the desire to remove the speck from someone’s eye. He condemns the hypocrisy of having the same problem only worse. How can someone discern when it’s an appropriate time to correct someone or try to guide them in their behavior?
6. Sawdust and a plank are made from the same material. The things that irritate us most in others are often the very things we struggle with ourselves. Do you find that to be true in your own experience? What makes it so hard to see our own blind spots?
7. Verse 6, says we shouldn’t cast our pearls before pigs. Can you think of a situation where you had to discern whether it was the right time to speak truth to someone in conflict, or whether it’s better to stay silent and not waste your time? What helped you decide?
8. Do you think Asking, seeking and knocking in prayer are meant to be a blank check to ask for whatever you want and God will give it to you?
9. Ask, seek, knock (vv. 7–11) is discussed in the specific context of wisdom needed in relational conflict. How does that framing change how you read those verses? What does it look like practically to keep seeking wisdom and answers to prayers in difficult relationships or conflict?
10. The Golden Rule (v. 12) is described as the summary of everything — the entire Law and the Prophets. In the hardest relational moments you face right now, what would it actually look like to treat that person the way you would want to be treated? What is the biggest obstacle to doing that?