

# WORDS OF JESUS

SERMON SERIES

## DISCUSSION GUIDE

### Do Not Judge

SPEAKER: Russell Joyce

DATE: August 9, 2026

TEXT(S): Matthew 7:1-2, with Eph 4:25,  
2 Cor 4:18, Heb 11: 6, Isaiah 6:1-5,  
and Phil 4:13

**HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE:** *This resource is designed to help you, and your group, step through a progression of engagement with the Bible passage(s) and the speaker's message.*

*Our goal is to help you and your group better understand and apply B4's teaching.*

### MESSAGE SUMMARY + DISCUSSION PROMPTS

Jesus' command, "Do not judge," is an invitation to humility. He isn't telling us to abandon truth, accountability, or healthy boundaries. However, He is teaching us that we cannot know another person's motives, circumstances, or heart with any certainty. Maybe that's why the Gospels repeatedly overturn readers' assumptions about people. They instruct us to fix our attention on God's character, rather than judging others' faults, to see ourselves more honestly, and discover that grace (given *and* received) is the true measure of a life lived securely held in God's love.

**LEAN IN:** *These are icebreakers and warm-ups, mostly to get the group talking and start the flow of conversation. Choose one and talk it over for 5 minutes.*

1. When you hear the phrase "Don't judge," what is your immediate reaction?
2. When do you tend to form an opinion before you have all the information?
3. Have you ever misjudged someone, only to have your perspective change later? What was that like?
4. What kinds of people or behaviors do you find yourself judging most quickly?
5. What's something that has recently caused you to stop and say, "I didn't see that coming"?

**LOOK DOWN:** *These are questions about the Bible passage(s) from the teaching. Spend about 10 minutes discussing your choice of two or three questions:*

1. In Matthew 7:1-2, what does Jesus say will happen when we judge others? How is this different from simply saying, "Judging is wrong"?
2. How do Matthew 7:1-2 and Ephesians 4:25 mesh, where refusing to judge coexists with speaking truth?
3. In Isaiah 6:1-5, how does the prophet change as he gets a clearer vision of God?
4. In 2 Corinthians 4:18, what is the difference between what is "seen" and what is "unseen"?
5. Hebrews 11:6 connects faith with earnestly seeking God. What does that suggest about the relationship between faith, attention, and spiritual perception?

**LOOK OUT:** *These questions help connect the world of the Bible to today. Spend about 10 minutes discussing your choice of two or three questions:*

1. Culture often says, “Don’t judge me,” while simultaneously encouraging us to judge people publicly online. Why do you think judgment has become so pervasive?
2. What’s the difference between accountability and condemnation? Where does your culture confuse the two?
3. Social media gives us a tiny amount of edited information about someone’s life and invites us to form strong opinions. How does this shape our capacity for humility?
4. What happens to a community when “tolerance” becomes an unwillingness to speak truth or enter into difficult relationships?
5. What might change if Christians became known less for their ability to identify what’s wrong with everyone else and more for their gratitude, humility, truthfulness, and grace?

**LOOK IN:** *These questions help you consider how to engage the teaching for yourself. Spend about 15-20 minutes discussing your choice of two or three questions:*

1. Who is someone you have reduced to a label rather than seeing the whole person, and why?
2. Who might you need to practice both truth and grace with rather than choosing one or the other?
3. When you look at your life, what are you most grateful for that God has forgiven or redeemed?
4. How might deliberately focusing on God’s character change the way you see yourself, your circumstances, and other people this week?
5. If gratitude is the measure of grace, what would it look like for gratitude to become your default way of navigating your life?

**LIVE IT OUT:** *These prayer practices can help you integrate this message into day-to-day life. Choose one prompt and discuss how you will embrace it this week (5 minutes):*

1. **Measure of Grace:** Once each day throughout the coming week, bring to mind someone you have been tempted to judge. Instead of rehearsing what is wrong with them, pray along these lines: “Jesus, help me see this person as you see them. Remind me that I stand by grace, not superiority. Give me wisdom to speak truth when necessary, humility where I lack understanding, and love where I am tempted toward judgment.” After you pray, spend a moment thanking God for specific ways He has shown you grace, express thanks for the other person, and ask God to bless them.
2. **Take a Second Look:** At the beginning or end of each day this week, pray through 2 Corinthians 4:18. Identify one thing you have been fixating on that you believe you’ve “seen.” It could be a person, a problem, something disappointing, a fear, injustice, or failure. Then ask God, “What am I really seeing? What might I fail to see? What is true about You in this situation? And what might change if I looked at this through Your character rather than my assumptions?” Finish your time with three specific statements of gratitude for God’s loving and gracious character.

You can find B4’s [Series Resources here](#).