

# Seek First

The Kingdom of God

## STUDENT STUDY GUIDE - WEEK 6

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### MATTHEW 7:1-5

Follow along with today's sermon! Use this as an outline for notes, and take time to reflect on the passage throughout the week.

Jesus says in **Matthew 7:1 - "Do not judge, or you too will be judged"**, but he doesn't mean to avoid all judgment; instead, he warns against uncalled-for criticism and hyper-critical attitudes. **John 7:24 - "Stop judging by mere appearances, but instead judge correctly."**

Ways of Uncalled-for Judging

1. Rushing to \_\_\_\_\_: making assumptions without knowing the whole story.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ spirit: constantly focusing on others' faults or mistakes.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ on: harshly condemning someone, even after they've acknowledged a mistake.

**Additional Notes:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Reflect:** Have you ever judged someone quickly and later found you were wrong? How did it feel?

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**Reflect:** Why might it be challenging to avoid judgment, especially toward people we disagree with?

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# Seek First

## The Kingdom of God

Jesus points out that judging can \_\_\_\_\_ us and \_\_\_\_\_ us.

**Matthew 7:2 - "For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."** The way we judge others is often how we are judged, and focusing on others' faults can make us ignore our own.

**Additional Notes:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Reflect:** How do you feel when someone judges you unfairly? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Reflect:** What are some of your own "planks" that you might overlook? \_\_\_\_\_

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Jesus encourages us to help others with their \_\_\_\_\_ only after addressing our own \_\_\_\_\_. **Matthew 7:5 - "You 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."** To offer constructive feedback, we must be humble and aware of our own faults.

**Additional Notes:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Reflect:** How can addressing your own weaknesses first make it easier to help others?

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**Reflect:** How does knowing God's love help you respond to feedback about your actions?

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