

# Seek First

The Kingdom of God

**SELF-AWARENESS**

**Dave Gustavsen**

**The Chapel**

**November 3, 2024**

## PERSONAL STUDY \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Use this for your personal devotion time and/or to prepare for your Small Group discussion.

### Scripture Passage: Matthew 7:1-5

1 "Do not judge, or you too will be judged. 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.

3 "Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? 4 How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? 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.

## SCRIPTURE QUESTIONS \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Read the passage and record your observations.

1. What is the "big idea" of the passage? \_\_\_\_\_

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2. What main life application question does the passage address/answer? \_\_\_\_\_

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3. What is one way you can apply it this week? \_\_\_\_\_

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## GROUP STUDY

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**Directions:** Use **BOTH** the personal and group questions for your group's discussion.

**OPENER** – Share with your group something or someone that you misjudged.

### Q1 – The Definition of Judging

- a. How do we form opinions about people around us? What factors influence these opinions?
- b. What does “judging others” mean?
- c. Pastor Dave mentioned three types of incorrect judging: Rushing to Judgement, Critical Spirit, and Piling On. Why are these types of judgments ineffective?

### Q2 – The Danger of Judging

- a. Matthew 7:2 says we will be judged in the same way that we judge others. What does that mean? How might it be both fair and challenging if we all have the same “measuring stick”?
- b. When we judge other people, do we hold them to the same standards we apply to ourselves, or do we adjust our expectations depending on the person? What influences these differences?
- c. Seeing faults in others is easier to observe than viewing faults in ourselves. What makes it difficult for us to see our shortcomings? Why do we need to rely on others to help us see ourselves?

### Q3 - The Good Kind of Judging

- a. This passage of Scripture is usually referenced by people who resist being asked to change. How can we communicate difficult truths in a way that reduces defensiveness and fosters openness?
- b. How can you tell / know when your judgement is motivated by love, with the other person's best interests in mind?
- c. Before judging others, how can you determine if you have a healthy and balanced view of your own strengths and weaknesses? What practices help you gain this perspective?