

Week 2: The Mirror and the Magnifier

Those people—the people who bring out the worst in us. It's easy to feel judged by them and to, in turn, judge them. But this is not a healthy way to live our lives—feeling judged and judging others. How can we get to the place of helping one another flourish? Perhaps Jesus has something to say about this.

Discussion Questions

- 1. What is your favorite BBQ place? What makes it better than all the others?
- 2. Judging is great when it comes to food, but not so much with people. Think of a time when you were judged. How did that make you feel about the other person? Did it make you want to change or to dig in?
- 3. Read Matthew 7:1-2. What would you be concerned about if God judged you the way you judge others?
- 4. What do you think "Don't play God" means in the context of this message?
- 5. Read Matthew 7:3–4. How can magnifying others' problems make you less aware of your own? Why is this problematic?
- 6. In what relationship do you need to put down the magnifier? What is one thing you can do this week to actually do this?

Changing Your Mind

When it comes to judging, it is not that we should never judge. Instead, we should start with an honest look in the mirror, which can change how we respond to others. What if we were *THOSE* people... the ones who refuse to play God, who judge the way we'd like to be judged, and who spend more time looking in the mirror than looking through the magnifier?