

Love First, Lead Second | Week 4

Introduction

People don't change by being judged. People change by being loved. We rarely help someone by pointing out their sin. We help them by loving them and pointing them to the one who forgives all sin. We can be right but be totally wrong in the way we go about being right, which makes us wrong. The church's message must be Jesus, and our method must be love.

Conversation Starters (10 minutes)

- Can you think of a time you were judged by someone else? How did that make you feel?
- Can you think of a time that you judged someone and pointed out their wrongdoing? How did that affect your relationship with them?

Sermon Notes Review (15 minutes)

What stood out, challenged, or impacted you from this weekend's message?

[Watch the Video](#) (5 minutes)

Click the link above to watch the video.

Group Discussion (45 minutes)

1. What's a time someone helped coach you in a way that was helpful?
2. Robert just mentioned what Jesus says about judgment in Matthew Chapter 7. Read [Matthew 7:1-5](#).
 - a. What is an example of someone with a plank in their own eye trying to advise someone on the speck in their eye?
3. Read [James 5:19-20](#) and [Galatians 6:1-2](#)
 - a. When we see someone doing wrong, **what** should we do?
 - b. When we see someone doing wrong, **how** should we approach them?
 - c. What does Galatians 6:1-2 tell you to look out for and why?
4. Approaching someone about their wrongdoing is challenging especially when we are trying to communicate love.
 - a. Does it feel like a burden?
 - b. How would you start that conversation?
 - c. What would be your overall goal in that conversation?
5. If you are involved in the church community long enough someone will need to have a challenging conversation with you. Read [Proverbs 1:7](#)
 - a. What does this Proverb teach us about how we should receive Godly advice and wisdom?

Prayer (5 minutes)

Addressing wrongdoing with love and gentleness requires us to be full of serenity. Come together as a group and read out loud the Serenity Prayer, asking God to grant you the serenity to deal with the broken world God's way.

God, grant me the serenity
to accept the things I cannot change,
the courage to change the things I can,
and the wisdom to know the difference.
Living one day at a time,
enjoying one moment at a time;
accepting hardship as a pathway to peace;
taking, as Jesus did,
this sinful world as it is,
not as I would have it;
trusting that You will make all things right
if I surrender to Your will;
so that I may be reasonably happy in this life
and supremely happy with You forever in the next.
Amen.

Announcements (5 minutes)

- One of the best responses to Jesus' radical grace in our lives is to serve others. We hope that serving others will become a regular part of your rhythm as your group continues to meet.
- Find suggestions for places to serve [HERE](#). Also, check out our We Care food donation page at wecare.sv.cc.
- Ready to learn more about the Bible and how to study it? Check out Sun Valley University. Our next course begins October 1. Find more information and register [HERE](#).