

Judging Others

I. OPENER

Gather everyone in a circle and give each person a number - for example, 1-20. The person who's been given the number 1 starts the game by saying "Concentration, Concentration, ready, begin. When he is saying that, he first brings both of his hands down to his thighs, claps his hands and then says his number 1 and any other number (2-20). The next person follows suit with his or her own number plus another person's number. (The goal is to get to the number 1's chair.) If somebody messes up they move to the end of the line, which would be number 20 in this case.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

III. STORY

John's parents moved towns and he had to change schools. On the first day many other students stirred him and called him names because he was new and different. John was depressed and felt very alone. He wanted to swap schools because of the way he was treated. As time went by, some students made friends with him, while others picked on him till the day he left school.

1. Do you think the students, knew what John was like on the first day at the new School? Why?

2. Why do you think they picked on him?

3. What are seven things that people may use as a reason to pick on other people? eg. Skin color

4. How do you think John felt on that first day at school?

5. How have you been treated unfairly by others?

1" Don't pick on people, jump on their failures, and criticize their faults--unless, of course, you want the same treatment. ²That critical spirit has a way of boomeranging. ³It's easy to see a smudge on your neighbor's face and be oblivious to the ugly sneer on your own. ⁴Do you have the nerve to say, "Let me wash your face for you," when your own face is distorted by contempt? ⁵It's this whole traveling road-show mentality all over again, playing a holier-than-thou part instead of just living your part. Wipe that ugly sneer off your own face, and you might be fit to offer a washcloth to your neighbor. ⁶"Don't be flip with the sacred. Banter and silliness give no honor to God. Don't reduce holy mysteries to slogans. In trying to be relevant, you're only being cute and inviting sacrilege. *Matthew 7:1-6 (MSG)*

6. Are the following ideas godly? If not, why?

- a. "He never has a good thing to say..."
- b. "His whole family act that way"
- c. "All foreigners are slow"
- d. "Anyone who doesn't live near a beach, would not know culture, if it hit them in the face"

7. What did Jesus mean by ⁴How can you say, "My friend, let me take the speck out of your eye," when you don't see the log in your own eye?"

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8. What does ⁶"Don't give to dogs what belongs to God. They will only turn and attack you. Don't throw pearls down in front of pigs. They will trample all over them." mean?

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9. What are some areas of your life you need to change?

10. How will you go about changing them?

WRAP UP & PRAYER