

CONVERSATION GUIDE

Middle-High School

DATE: 11/15/20

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 7:1-6

LESSON: Dogs, Pigs, Specks and Planks

INTRO

This conversation guide exists to help parents interact with their middle and high school students. Our goal in having middle and high school students attend gatherings (or worship at home) with their parents is to help them transition toward being adults who are fully functioning members of the church. But most middle and high school students still need some translation and help connecting what they're learning to their lives. We want our sermons to be accessible, but they aren't specifically targeted toward the transitional teenage years.

- What stood out to you from the sermon today?

- **Read Matthew 7:1-2.** Do you ever hear people mention this verse, saying things like "You can't judge me!" or "Only God can judge me!"? How might this person have misunderstood Jesus' actual point in this passage?
 - Do you know anyone who seems to walk around judging everyone for anything no matter how small? How do you feel when you're around that person?

- **Read Matthew 7:3-5.** What are the two ways to fail when you see someone doing something wrong? (1. Stay silent and 2. Be judgmental)
 - What does Jesus say we need to do first in order to helpfully confront someone when they're wrong?
 - What is the point of taking the "speck out of your brother's eye"? (It is for their good, to help them grow, but you've got to do it with love and humility.)
 - Parents - what are specific ways you are trying to help your teens grow in their character?
 - Teens - have you ever tried to lovingly confront someone? How did it go? What do you think you could have done differently to be more effective?

