## WHAT IF JESUS WAS SERIOUS?



# 8-WEEK STUDY

on the challenging teachings of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount

### WEEK 8

Discussion Guide

If Jesus was serious, then we should remove the plank from our own eye first.

Matthew 7:1-5

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#### **WEEKLY READING**

Primary text from this week: Matthew 7:1-5

Secondary texts from this week: 2 Samuel 12:1-7

#### **GETTING STARTED**

Goals for this session: To better understand Jesus' teaching on judging and hypocrisy.

Missed the sermon? Watch it at www.youtube.com/venturamissionary

**Break the Ice:** What is your favorite flavor of ice cream?

#### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- 1. In his message on Sunday, Pastor Doug distinguished between discernment and criticism. How would you define the difference between those two ideas?
- 2. Pastor Doug stated that we often accuse others but excuse ourselves. How have you experienced this in your own life or in the lives of others?
- 3. In his bestselling book *unChristian*, Christian researcher David Kinnaman found that most non-Christians view Christians as too judgmental and hypocritical.\* Do you agree with this assessment? Why or why not?
- 4. Have someone in the group read **1 Corinthians 5:9-13**. According to this passage, who are Christians supposed to judge and who are we not to judge? What implications does this have for us?
- 5. Have someone in the group read **Matthew 18:15-17**. What does this passage tell us about judging others?
- 6. What Have someone in the group read **Romans 2:1-4**. What does this passage tell us about judgment and hypocrisy?
- 7. How can you apply this lesson in your own life this week?

\*Kinnaman, David, and Gabe Lyons. unChristian: What a New Generation Really Thinks about Christianity—and Why It Matters. Baker Books, 2012

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#### **PRAYER**

**Pray for each other:** Have the group pray for wisdom in response to this lesson.

**Pray for yourself:** Pray and ask God to help you recognize areas of hypocrisy in your own life so that you can surrender those areas to Him.

**Pray for your four:** Identify four people who don't know Jesus (friends, family, neighbors, or co-workers/classmates), and commit to pray for them consistently. Pray that (1) God would reveal Jesus to them, (2) that God would turn their hearts towards Him, (3) that God would put Christians in their path to represent Christ, and (4) that God would give you an opportunity to share what Christ has done in your life.

#### **ACTION STEPS**

**Do the following:** Read **Romans 2:1-4** every morning this week. Ask God to help you show the same grace and kindness towards others that He has shown to you.

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