



The “judge” is out: James 4.11-12

1. **“Don’t judge me!”** How do you respond to those who say that? **OR** Do you ever say “don’t judge me” as a defence mechanism? What’s wrong with that kind of approach?

2. **Slander.** Speaking badly about people or speaking falsely about them. What are the effects of slander on the church, work relationships? Has anyone in the group been slandered? (Or know someone) If so, what effect did it have?

3. **Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. Jesus.** James argues that judging is a violation of the royal law in Leviticus (love your neighbour as yourself). Discuss both of these reasons for not judging. Which is more powerful, do you think? How do they both work as incentives not to judge?

4. **Sticks and stones will break my bones, but words will never harm me.** Why is this lie so powerful? Has this lie affected anyone in the group, and what healing have you received from the damage contained in this lie?

5. **Gossip.** Why do we do it? What damage does it do? How can we avoid it? **OR** Does anyone in the group resonate with the “Jerry Springer effect?” (Watching shows with sinful/weak/desperate people that remind us that at least we don’t fall into “that group”) What should be our response to those we see whose foolish choices have hurt themselves and others?