

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

# WHAT IF JESUS WAS SERIOUS?



## 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](http://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. 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

