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## MESSAGE TO CONVERSATION GUIDE

Week 1 | Plank *Then* Speck

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1. We opened this message talking about little things that people judge us about...like the way we drive, the sports team we root for, & the music we listen to. Pick 1 of those 3 & tell how someone may judge you for it?
2. In this message, Joel said, *judging is something we all do but no one likes it when it happens to you*. Do you think this is true & why do you think we judge if we don't like to be judged?
3. Read Matthew 7:1. In this message, we said that the #1 reason we judge others is because we don't see our own sin...which means we can be self righteous. Discuss the following line from the message, *self righteousness thrives when we're not aware; self righteousness dies when we're self aware*.
4. Read Matthew 7:2. What are some words to describe how you'd like to be judged?
5. Sometimes we judge people with *anger*. What are some examples of that & how effective (meaning, it leads to change) is judging people with anger?
6. Sometimes we judge people *religiously*. In this message, Joel said, *sometimes Christians will throw rocks at people but think "as long as I draw a cross on it 1st... it's ok"*. Why is that counter to everything Jesus stood for & commanded of us?
7. Read Matthew 7:3-5 & count how many times Jesus uses the word *brother*. The word *brother* indicates that you're in a relationship with the person you're trying to correct. Why is this important when having a tough conversation?
8. What do you think Jesus' plank illustration and Joel's salad illustration? How does that apply to how we approach people in a tough conversation?
9. The most effective & loving way to have a tough conversation is by using *mercy*. How does judging with *mercy* differ from judging religiously or angrily?
10. Read Matthew 7:6. This is what Jesus says our posture & attitude should be regarding being on the receiving end of harsh judgement. What do you think it means?