

Small Group Guide: Judging with Right Judgment

Opening Question: Have you ever encountered a situation where someone rejected information that contradicted their beliefs? How did you respond?

Key Takeaways:

1. Jesus' purpose was not for earthly prominence or prestige, but to train his disciples and die on the cross for our sins.
2. The world often rejects Jesus because He exposes evil deeds and challenges our desire to cling to darkness.
3. True understanding of God's will comes from seeking His glory, not our own.
4. We must judge with "right judgment" based on God's Word, not appearances or cultural influences.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think Jesus' brothers didn't believe in Him at this point? How might their motivations have differed from Jesus' purpose?
2. The sermon mentions that "darkness hates the light." In what ways have you experienced resistance or discomfort when confronted with biblical truth?
3. How can we distinguish between speaking truth in love and being judgmental or harsh?
4. Jesus says, "My teaching is not mine, but from the one who sent me." How does this statement challenge our tendency to rely on human wisdom or popular opinions?
5. What are some areas in your life where you might be judging based on appearances rather than "right judgment"?
6. How can we develop a deeper appetite for God's Word? What obstacles do you face in consistently studying Scripture?

Practical Applications:

1. This week, commit to reading a chapter of the Bible each day, focusing on understanding God's character and will.
2. Identify one area where you may be relying on cultural wisdom rather than biblical truth. Research what Scripture says about this topic.
3. Practice speaking truth in love by having a difficult conversation with someone, prioritizing both honesty and kindness.
4. Reflect on your motivations: Are you seeking God's glory or your own in your daily decisions and actions?

Closing Prayer: Lord, help us to hunger for Your Word and to judge with right judgment. Give us discernment to recognize truth and the courage to live it out, even when it's difficult. May we seek Your glory above all else. Amen.