

Our **Virtual**

# PowerGroup

**MESSY**  
Week 1 Study

## Icebreaker

What is the greatest mess that you have ever made?

## Passage 1 **Romans 3:19-24**

We're all a mess. We all fall short of our own standards. We all fall short of each other's standards. We all fall short of God's standards. When you see someone else's mess, we often want to judge and condemn. Instead, say to yourself, "I know a mess when I see one because I've been a mess."

**Reflection** How do you usually respond to other people's messes? Do you go into fix-it mode, listen mode, or do you judge their failures? How has this tendency affected your relationships?

In what area of your spiritual life do you feel like you come up short? Is it bible reading, prayer, service, or even anger? Where do you fall short of your own standards? How does it make you feel?

How do these verses challenge the way you think about your relationship with God? In what ways are they comforting?

## Passage 2 **Matthew 7:1-5**

It is easy to begin to compare ourselves with others and have a judgmental attitude. We see the mess in their life and begin to judge instead of showing grace. Here we are reminded and warned that the same amount of judgement we show will be shown to us and the same amount of grace we show will be shown to us.

**Reflection** Why would it be important to address our own shortcomings first before addressing another person's sin?

Who has the right in this passage to address and judge sin? Why does Jesus give us a warning that we will be judged as harshly as we judge?

How does God change our perspective and attitude by removing the log in our eyes so we can see clearly?

### Passage 3 James 5:13-20

In this passage we are encouraged to confess our sins to one another, but isn't God we should be confessing our sins to? It's often said we confess to God for forgiveness, but we confess to each other for healing. This is a passage that shows the importance of being authentic and honest with one another. We need community in order to grow!

**Reflection** Why is it that people are not open and honest about the struggles they have with those inside the church? What fear do people have?

What are the elements would you need in order to feel safe to open about your struggles with someone else?

What happens when you hear that others have struggles? Are you more inclined to show judgment or grace?

What are the dangers of staying quiet and not opening up?

Share a time where you found grace instead of judgment when you were dealing with something difficult

### Application

We've all been in, are in, or are only one decision away from a mess. The bible is clear that we have all created or been part of a mess at one time or another. However, before God can clean up our messes, they first need to be uncovered and exposed.

**Take the time to share and pray over any struggles that you feel comfortable with sharing with your group.**