



## Family Worship Guide 14

### Look Up and Read Together

Matthew 7:1-5

#### Mirror, Mirror on the Wall

You'll need a hand mirror and some Vaseline or cooking oil. Each person will hold the mirror about a foot away from their own face. Name 3 things you notice about your face, without anyone else contributing. Is there a spot of chocolate left from that donut you had for breakfast? Does your hair need to be combed? Is your nose sunburned from being outside too long yesterday? Do your eyes look really dark brown today? Now, rub some Vaseline or cooking oil all over the mirror. Take another look at your face. Can you see as clearly as you could before?

Most of the time it's easier for you to see what someone else needs to change ... like when you looked through the clear mirror. When you're pointing out what's wrong with someone else, the mirror seems to be clear. When you look at yourself, it's like looking through the Vaseline. It's not as easy to see yourself. God wants to help you see how you can become more like Him. God will take care of the other person and how they can be more like Him. That's not your job!

God deals with each person differently. When you ask Him to help you grow closer to Him, He will help you notice things you need to work on. He will help you see clearly how you need to change.

- If you're judging others, you might say, "They need to be kinder to their sister." (speck)  
If you're looking at yourself, you might say, "I need to be kinder to my sister/brother. God, will You help me see clearly how I need to change?" (plank)
- If you're judging others, you might say, "They should stop getting angry so easily." (speck)  
If you're looking at yourself, you might say, "I get angry very quickly. God, will You help me calm down before I blow up?" (plank)
- If you're judging others, you might say, "He always thinks he's right." (speck)
- If you're looking at yourself, you might say, "I think my way is the right way. God, will You help me see that not everyone thinks the way I think?" (plank)
- If you're judging others, you might say, "They throw a fit if they don't win." (speck)  
If you're looking at yourself, you might say, "I always want to be the one who wins. God, will You help me see that I can have fun with my friends and family without always having to be first?" (plank)
- If you're judging others, you might say, "They always have dumb ideas." (speck)  
If you're looking at yourself, you might say, "I have a hard time standing up for myself, and I let people push me around. God, will You help me speak up and let others know my ideas and thoughts?" (plank)

In what way do you think about the speck in someone else's eye, rather than ask God to help you with the plank in your own eye?

## **Falling Short**

Place a stand-behind mark on the ground. This could be a yardstick, a piece of rope, or a piece of masking tape. About 4 feet away, mark another line. Each family member will take a turn standing on the first line and then try to jump (from a standing still position) to the second line. That sure didn't look like it was very far! But, it wasn't easy to do. You fell short a bunch of times, didn't you?!

If you think about it, you fall short of what God wants for you ... a lot. You've got plenty to do in your own life to become more like Jesus. You don't need to spend time judging how other people fall short.

- Why do you think you judge other people? *(Maybe it makes you feel better about how you have fallen short.)*

Judging others doesn't help them. Loving them, respecting them, and listening to them helps them. Your job is to follow God the best you can, understand His Word, and live like He wants. We're not judging others today, Satan. Not today!

## **Tell Their Story**

Choose one of the pictures and tell a short story about what that person is like and what they are doing.

- How were the stories you came up with different?
- Why were they different? *(We all judged by what we saw and we saw the people differently.)*
- What did Jesus say about judging others?

## **Prayer Time**

*Dear God, help me see how I can lift others up, rather than judge them and tear them down. I ask for your help as I grow closer to You. Amen.*



