

Lesson Plan | Kingdom Principles | Lesson 2: Judge and be Judged

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INTRO

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Lesson Plan: Judging

Before using this lesson it is recommended you read the book 'The Cloud and the Line' by Paul Gibbs. This will help you understand the principles taught. For more information and purchase details please go to

<http://www.paismovement.com/resources/the-cloud-and-the-line-book>

MAIM AIM: To teach the results of judging, how to decide when something should be judged and what guidelines can be used in judging well.

AGE RANGE: 12 – 18 Years

TIME: Approx 45 minutes

RESOURCES:

- Labels
- Marker Pens
- Tape or Blue tac / White tac
- Power point containing pictures of famous people
- Blank golden pieces of square card
- Several water pistols of different sizes. [One as big as you can get.]
- Towel
- Work sheet [Provided]
- Two large pieces of white card. One that says "Revenge" on one side and another that says "Grace."

ATTENTION: What is judging?

TIME: 15 minutes

MODULE 1

As the students enter the classroom put labels on their forehead that state bad and good things people do. Make the things personal. Some examples might be: "I stole from my brother.", "I gave food to a homeless man." "He's black, he must not be educated."

Make sure that every student has a label then ask for a volunteer. Have the volunteer put students in a line with the 'worst' person on the left hand side and the 'best' person on the right. Ask if anyone would line people up differently. Why? Give a few students the chance to change it if they wish.

LINK: We all judge people. We do it all the time. Sometimes we judge because of something we see them do. Sometimes we judge based on appearances and other times we judge on race etc.

MODULE 2 [Optional]

Show the pictures of famous people. At each picture ask the class what they are famous for. Since they are famous for something ask if we have judged them? What do we believe about them and why? Is there a difference between judging someone famous and judging someone you know?

APPLICATION: When do we know it's right to judge and how to we respond to judging?

TIME: 20 minutes

LINK: Are there times when it is right to judge?

BIBLE: There's a Bible verse that goes like this: "Do not judge or you too will be judged?" [Matthew 7:1]

MODULE 3

Invite a student up to the front of the class. [Make sure they are okay with being wet.] Hand him a small water pistol. Then place the two "revenge" and "grace" cards at the front of the class face down. Explain that if you hit him he will want to do something back. Let him fire the water pistol at you. Now explain that maybe you will get annoyed with this, and now you want to do something back to him. Fire a slightly bigger water pistol at him. Let this go on to bigger and better water guns. Stop it when you think it is appropriate.

When we judge someone we often retaliate because of how they act. We call this "revenge." Turn over the first card that says 'revenge' on it.

But perhaps this saying about judging means that in some situations we can act differently. Turn over the second card that says 'grace' on it.

Ask people in the class if they know what 'grace' means? Can they share an example of how they have experienced grace in their life or have given grace to someone else?

MODULE 4

Hand out the "Cloud and the Line" worksheet.

We are trying to learn how to live and respond in a way that God desires. Something we are calling "Cloud living." We want to learn to live in such a way that it surprises people because it's not typical. In fact the way we live should reveal God's heart to others. At the top of the worksheet write down what you think are things that should be judged 'good' and things that should be judged 'bad.'

LINK: Does this mean that we should never make a comment on what is right or wrong?

BIBLE: For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you [Matthew 7:2]

MODULE 5

Discuss:

- How can we live in a good way if we are not judging what is good?
- Does it therefore make sense that we should judge some things?
- Now what do you think of the phrase: "Do not judge or you to will be judged"?

LINK: You see, the verse continues and in this extra bit is given a bit hint about judging. If we judge others we should just be prepared that we are asking them and God to judge us in the same way. Grace often goes beyond forgiving an action that should be judged. Sometimes it reaches out and actually does something that breaks down barriers and causes the other person to change the way they live their life. The ultimate grace was shown when Jesus responded to our bullying of him by giving his life.

Grace doesn't say the action is acceptable, but it does change the situation. It shows love to the individual while not agreeing with what they do.

APPEAL: Using the golden rule to judge well

TIME: 10 minutes

BIBLE: "So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets." [Matthew 7:12]

LINK: Jesus teaching goes beyond judging. Instead it asks us to be pro-active in changing the way we live our lives. This verse is called the golden rule. It's a rule that if people lived by it, would radically change society.

MODULE 6 [Optional]

Look at the "Cloud and the Line" worksheet. We have already mentioned a behavior that can be judged as 'good' or as 'bad.' But what does the cloud mean? It is where 'grace' comes in. The golden rule is "Do unto others as you want them to do unto you." Using this phrase think about a situation in your life where you are judging someone. How are you currently responding to that? If you were living by the golden rule how would you respond? Write your response in the cloud on the work sheet.

LINK: God's heart asks us to stop looking at what others are doing, or how we are different. Instead He tells us to start thinking about what we can do to make others lives better, and to let God's love change them.

MODULE 7

Take 1 minute, think about any situations where you are judging others right now. Decide to act in this situation as the golden rule would allow you to. Take one of our golden cards to remind yourself of the golden rule. Write this rule on your card and put it in a place that you will see it regularly.



Write on the line above, the things that you think should be 'judged' good and bad. Good on the left, bad on the right.

Jesus golden rule:

The golden rule is _____

Is there someone or something you are judging right now?



Does the golden rule affect the way you will judge them/it? If so write down here how you will now respond:

