



Weekly Group Questions & Practices

The following questions and practices are provided as a menu for you to select from; unless your group loves truly lengthy discussions, please don't try to do everything here! **Choose the questions and activities that best suit your group and timeframe.**

Change: Stories that change the world and your heart.

Date: **August 15, 2021**
Sermon: **The Difference Between You and Me**
Passage: **Luke 18:9-14**

Discuss:

1. Where do you see judgment and criticism in society today? What are the reasons we can use to look down on each other?
2. Describe the Pharisee's interior life—his view of God and his view of himself. Explain how the tax collector's interior life was different.
3. How do self-righteous confidence and judgmentalism go hand-in-hand?
4. How does the tendency to evaluate others show up in your life? If judgmentalism is an indicator that our souls are not right with God, how is yours doing?
5. The Pharisee was doing some good things—practicing spiritual disciplines and worshipping at the temple—but his heart was off. How do we avoid doing the same?

Bonus Question

Jesus' final words on this parable were "*For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted*" (Luke 18.14). How do you see this playing out in the Pharisee's and tax collector's lives? How about in your own life?

Soul Training: Bless Others

This week, invite the Holy Spirit to reveal where judgment may be present in your life. Try one of the following exercises and pay attention to what he reveals in those.

Option 1: This week, whenever you encounter someone, quickly pray for them and bless them under your breath. Release to God any criticism that arises when you meet them.

Option 2: Pick a person who irritates you and who you might judge. Pray a prayer of blessing for them daily.