

# NS LIFE GROUPS

NorthStar Church

Back to the Woods – Plank in the Eye

Luke 6:41-42

November 18, 2018

**Main Idea:** View and treat people through the eyes of God’s mercy.

**Icebreaker:** Have you ever gotten something in your eye or injured your eye? What happened?

## **Study:**

Use your sermon notes, the following points and the scripture listed to discuss among your group.

1. **Read Luke 6:41-42.** Jesus uses the metaphor of trying to remove a speck from someone else’s eye while we have a giant log sticking out of our own eye.
  - a. Why are we so quick to criticize or condemn other people and not notice our own shortcomings or sins?
  - b. Would you say that you struggle with being quick to judge other people in a critical way and to assume the worst about their motives?
  - c. How does remembering the “log” in our own eyes change our perspective toward other people’s “specks”? *(Remembering our own sin, our own need for a Savior, and the mercy and grace God has given to us helps us be quicker to show grace and mercy toward others.)*
2. **Read 1 Chronicles 28:10-11.** Solomon was instructed to build a temple for God. Included in these instructions was the Mercy Seat where God’s presence was going to dwell in the Old Testament. Now **Read 1 Corinthians 6:19-20.** In the New Testament, we learn that now Christ-followers are God’s temple. The Holy Spirit dwells in us.
  - a. How should the knowledge that God’s mercy is within us as Christ followers change the way we view and treat other people?
  - b. How does looking first at Christ’s sacrifice on our behalf and remembering his mercy to us before focusing on the person we disagree with shape the way we relate to others?
  - c. Is it possible to disagree with someone’s views on important things and yet still love them and show mercy and grace to them? What could this type of relationship look like?

## **Application:**

One of the top killers of churches, families, and any relationship is **a lack of mercy.**

1. Are there any relationships in your life that you’ve not been very merciful in? *(Think through your relationships with your spouse, kids, parents, extended family, coworkers, someone you disagree with politically or at church, etc.)*
2. How should your perspective toward that person change?
3. What practical step of obedience can you take this week to change the nature of that relationship into one that is fueled by God’s mercy? *(Ideas: Commit to praying for your own heart toward that person; praying for that person’s well-being and relationship with God regularly; do something to bless that person; call them on the phone or set up a meal to apologize and ask for forgiveness for not showing them the same mercy God has shown you.)*

## **Pray:**

Pray for each person in your group and their various requests. Pray that the Lord would help us be people who are quick to show mercy to others.