



## Younger IK Groups- PreK- 1st grade

**April 16, 2025**

**Bible Story:** Judging- Matthew 7:1-6

**Big Idea:** God's the judge...not us.

**The Win:** Kids who can identify and take their next step of discipleship by embracing a preschooler's physical needs or engaging an elementary kid in things that interest them.

### Wednesday Share:

Tonight during Impact Kids, we looked at Matthew 7:1-6. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus says that the way we judge others is the way we will be judged. He tells his listeners to focus on getting themselves right with God first, rather than pointing out the flaws in others while ignoring their own. While we can come alongside friends and help them, it's not our job to judge others. This is a good time to chat with your family about how you view other people. Help kids focus on their own relationship with God first and learn how to help others rather than judge them.

### Leader Devo:

<https://parkwaychurch.tv/blog/2025/04/09/apr-16>

### Dig In to Prayer:

Ask God to show your kids that even though there's a lot he could judge about us, he chooses to see us through loving eyes. And ask that God would give kids his loving eyes to see others.

### Quick Tip:

Create a judgment-free culture in your ministry. That means never shaming kids for answering a question wrong or sharing an honest opinion. (In fact, you'll notice that Dig In avoids questions with specific "right answers" to make sure kids don't have to fear getting it wrong.) It means not putting kids on the spot to read or pray aloud if they feel nervous about doing it. It means not referring to past weeks with the assumption that all your kids were there, which can exclude the kids who don't make it every week. And it means not assuming kids have prior Bible knowledge, which will make them feel stupid if they don't know what you're talking about.

### Wednesday Group Schedule

Leaders Arrive: 6:15 PM  
Family Dinner: 6:30 PM – 6:50 PM  
K-3rd Outside Play: 6:50 PM- 7:20 PM  
4th & 5th Small Group: 6:50 PM- 7:30 PM  
K-3rd Small Group: 7:25 PM- 8:00 PM  
4th & 5th Outside Play: 7:30 PM- 8:00 PM  
Dismiss: 8:00 PM- 8:05 PM

## Low Energy Game:

### Supplies

- small book (1 for every 5 or 6 kids)
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

### Talk About Hard Things

**Say:** Some things are hard for us to do.

Share an example of something that's hard for you, like getting a basketball in the basket, drawing a horse, or baking a cake.

**Ask:** • Tell me about something that's hard for you to do. Kids may say it's hard for them to ride a two-wheel bike, write their names, or catch a ball.

**Say:** We all have things we can't do very well. When we're doing something hard, we want others to help us or encourage us, not point out our mistakes. Let's practice helping each other do something hard in a game.

### Help Our Friends

- Form groups of five or six kids, and have them gather on one side of your play space.
- Give one child in each group a small book, and encourage the kids with the books to try to balance the books on their heads.
- Encourage the remaining kids in each group to walk alongside and help their friends as they try to walk across the room with the books on their heads.
- Helpers can catch the book if it falls and give it back or even help it stay balanced. Encourage helpers to cheer on their friends as they go.
- After groups reach the other side of the room, a new child can take the book, and groups can move back to the other side of the room helping the next friend.
- Continue until all kids have had a chance to carry a book on their heads.
- If you'd like, play upbeat music while kids play.

**Say:** It was hard to carry the books on our heads all the way across the room. We wanted our friends to help us, not tell us we weren't doing a good job if the book fell. Sometimes it's hard to make right choices and follow God's rules for our lives. We can encourage others to make good choices instead of pointing out when they make wrong choices. We can trust God to help us all make good choices because God's the judge...not us. He helps us know what's right and wrong.

## Talk About Video:

### Discuss and Watch "Judge Cody"

**Say:** Jesus said that God's the judge...not us. But it can be tempting to judge other people for not acting the way we would! We're going to watch a video about a boy who gets to help make sure the rules at school are being followed...but adds a few of his own.

**Ask:** • If you could add a rule to your school, what would you add?

**Say:** Let's see what happens when Cody adds his rules to his school hallways.

### Watch "Judge Cody."

**Ask:** • What was wrong with Cody's rules?

- What did you think about Cody getting in trouble, too?
- What does this video show about why God's the judge...not us?

**Say:** God's the judge...not us, because God makes the rules and he's the only one who can keep them perfectly. Cody added a bunch of rules that made it impossible to avoid getting in trouble. Even he couldn't keep his own rules! That can happen when we try to be the judge. So remember, let God be the judge!

## Deeper Bible:

### Supplies

- Bible
- black construction paper (1 sheet for every 4 kids)
- transparent tape
- stuffed animals

**Easy Prep:** Cut each sheet of construction paper in half.

### Talk About Choices

**Say:** Sometimes we want to help others make a good choice. Share an example of something you told someone to do, like telling your brother to slow down on the road or your friend to eat fewer sweets.

**Ask:** • Tell about a time you tried to get someone to do something good. Kids may say they tried to get their friends to share a toy, they tried to get their brother to come inside when Mom called, or they told their sister to go to sleep at night.

### Lead Blind

**Say:** We like to help others make good choices. But if we aren't making good choices, it's harder to help someone else. Let's see what that's like with a game.

- Form leader-led groups. Have kids each find a partner within their group and stand together on one side of the play space.
- Ask adult or teen helpers to tape a piece of paper to the forehead of one child in each pair, covering his or her eyes. Encourage the remaining kids to close their eyes.
- Scatter stuffed animals throughout kids' path.
- On your signal, have kids with paper over their eyes lead kids with their eyes closed across the room.
- Ask leaders to walk with the pairs in their groups to help them move across the room without bumping into any other pairs or tripping on the stuffed animals.
- After all pairs have crossed the room, have kids switch roles, moving the paper to the forehead of the other child in each pair.
- On your signal, have leaders help kids cross the room as before, with the other partner leading.

### Show the Way

**Say:** It's hard to lead someone if we can't see. Let's try leading with our eyes uncovered instead. Have kids with eyes open lead their partners with eyes closed across the room. Then kids can trade roles so everyone has a chance to be led with their eyes closed and to lead with them open.

**Say:** It was harder to lead our friends when we couldn't see very well. The Bible says we can't lead others well that way. **Read aloud Luke 6:39.**

**Say:** If we aren't making good choices, we can't lead others to make good choices either. But if we spend time with God, he'll help us be good examples for others. God's the judge...not us. We can trust God to help other people make good choices. Lead kids to pray and ask God to help them make good choices.

## Life Application:

### Receive an Affirmation

Have kids sit in a circle. You'll stand in the center. Say: Today we learned God's the judge...not us. That means when a friend does something wrong it's not our job to point our finger and judge. Wag your finger. And when we do something wrong, it's not our friends' jobs to get us in trouble. God forgives us all because of Jesus! And he's the judge...not us.

Invite each child to come to you individually. Give each child a hug and say:

God loves you and forgives you, and you can trust him to help others make good choices, too. If you have more than 10 kids, do this in leader-led small groups.

### Pray

**Say:** It's a good thing that God is the judge...not us. Because of Jesus, God makes us clean of all the wrong things we've done. Let's thank him! Lead kids in a brief prayer, thanking God for helping kids know what's right and wrong and for his forgiveness, too.

**Say:** Thanks for coming to church today! I hope you'll come back next week and learn more about our God who loves us and forgives us!

## Activity Page with a Point:

### Younger Kids: Color a Coloring Page

Distribute the coloring pages and crayons.

**Say:** We're learning about a time Jesus stood up on a hill to teach a big crowd of people! He taught that God's the judge...not us. Let's color a kid who is definitely not the judge!

Allow time for kids to color.

### Older Kids: Do an Activity Page

**Say:** In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus taught that God's the judge...not us. Sometimes we like to look for what's wrong with other people. Let's try looking for what's wrong in this picture.

Distribute the activity pages and pencils. Kids will find the mistakes.

**Ask:** • What mistakes did you notice?

• How did you decide those things were wrong?

• Let's connect this experience to our everyday lives. What might make you decide there's something wrong with another person?

**Say:** It's fine to look for what's wrong with a picture. But when it comes to looking at other people, God's the judge...not us. He gets to decide if what people say and do is right or wrong—and then he forgives them! So avoid the temptation to look for what's wrong in people.

Older Kids Answer Key:

