



## Older IK Groups- 2nd - 5th Grades

**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:

- painter's tape
- pennies (3 per child)
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

**Easy Prep:** Use painter's tape to create a line on the floor parallel with a wall. Place the line about 5 feet from the wall.

### Toss Pennies

**Say:** Today we're talking about how God is a good judge. Let's see how good you are at judging how to accomplish a task: tossing a penny so it lands close to the wall.

- Give each child three pennies.
- Explain that kids will stand behind the line and toss their pennies, one at a time, trying to get their pennies as close as possible to the wall. Be careful not to say anything about a winner or trying to be closer than other people.
- Tell kids to try different techniques and judge for themselves how to adjust for penny bounce and spin.
- After each round, have kids each pick up three pennies and play again.
- If you'd like, play upbeat music while kids play.

### Talk About It

**Ask:** • How did you decide how well you did in this game?

• I never said that your goal was to be closer than other people. Why do you think we naturally started comparing ourselves to other people?

• What's wrong with comparing ourselves to others?

**Say:** Even though your goal was to get your penny as close as possible to the wall, some of you judged yourselves, and others, by comparing your pennies to others. If one person got closer than you, you judged yourself as not as good. But if you got the closest, you judged others as the losers of the game. That's fine for a silly penny-tossing game, but in life, things get messy when we start to compare ourselves to others and think we're better than them. That's because God's the judge, not us. He wants us to focus on our hearts being close to him, not on how we measure up to other people.

## 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

- whiteboard
- permanent markers
- paper towels
- dry-erase markers, preferably red

### Make Judgments

**Say:** We're learning that God's the judge...not us. That impacts how we view and treat others. But what does it mean for how God sees us? If God is the judge, what is he judging about us? Let's dig in to that.

#### Read Psalm 53:2-3.

Set out some permanent markers.

**Say:** These verses say that God looks down and sees that nobody is good enough! Let's think of some bad things God could see when he looks at people on earth.

Use the permanent markers to write kids' ideas on the whiteboard, or let kids write their own ideas if you have enough markers. (Don't worry, we'll help you erase this later!)

Try to erase the marker with a paper towel.

**Say:** Hmm...if this is what God sees, we're doomed! There's a lot of bad to see, and I can't erase it. But let's look at another verse.

### Dig Deeper

#### Read Psalm 103:10-12.

**Say:** God separates us from our sin. Let's walk as far away as we can get from this board. Lead kids in walking across the room.

Say: That's a pretty amazing thing for our judge to do. But he does even more!

#### Read Isaiah 1:18.

**Say:** Our sins are red, but Jesus' blood washed them clean. His death cleans away our sins. Let's color over them in red. Have kids help you color completely over every word on the board, using dry-erase markers. Ideally, you'll use red markers.

**Say:** And there's one more thing God does as our judge.

#### Read 1 John 1:9.

Have kids help you erase the board. It should erase cleanly.

**Ask:** Based on what we read and saw on the board, how would you describe God as a judge?

**Say:** Look at how clean our board is. This is what God sees when he looks at you. It's not what you deserve...we've all done bad things. But because Jesus covered our sins with his blood and erased them, God sees us as clean. And since we've been judged as clean, even though we don't deserve it, that's how we can look at others, too. God's the judge...not us, so let's see other people through his loving, forgiving eyes.

## Life Application:

### Thank the Judge

**Say:** God's the judge...not us. And it's a really good thing, too! God is perfect, so there's a lot he could judge about us. Instead, he sent Jesus to die for us so he can judge us unfairly, seeing us as better than we are! Let's thank him for that.

Have kids make a fist with one hand and bang it on the opposite palm like a gavel as they silently talk to God about the wrong things they've done.

**Pray:** God, thank you that even though you could judge us for all those wrong choices, you judge us unfairly...in a way that makes us look so much better! Thank you for forgiving all the wrong things we do. Help us see other people through your loving eyes. In Jesus' name, amen.

Thank kids for coming, and encourage them to come back next week.

## 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:

