

# WEEK 5

## DO NOT JUDGE OTHERS

### VALUE

## COMMUNITY



### BIBLE TEXT

## MATTHEW 7.1–5

“Do not judge others, so that God will not judge you, for God will judge you in the same way you judge others, and he will apply to you the same rules you apply to others.

Why, then, do you look at the speck in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the log in your own eye?

How dare you say to your brother, ‘Please, let me take that speck out of your eye,’ when you have a log in your own eye?”

You hypocrite! First take the log out of your own eye, and then you will be able to see clearly to take the speck out of your brother’s eye.

## CONTEXT

Jesus often taught his followers using picture language, hyperbole and humour. The seemingly lighthearted image of someone attempting to take a speck of sawdust from the eye of someone else whilst they have a plank of wood in their own is used here to make a serious point about hypocrisy. Jesus is saying that we need to look to our own shortcomings before judging the sins of others. Having a critical and judgmental attitude can be a negative force in a **community** whereas an attitude of humility and encouragement of others will inspire and motivate.

WORSHIP TIME

WORSHIP TABLE

- 3 candles
- Bible open at Matthew 7.1-5
- Worship cloth or table runner (colour corresponding to the Church season, see [www.imaginer.co.uk/church-year](http://www.imaginer.co.uk/church-year))
- A plank or log and a tiny piece of wood

PREPARATION & RESOURCES

- Items for the worship table
- Download RaF2ppt-Term1Week5
- Children should prepare & practice the puppet drama
- Barney, Bella & Bob puppets; Barney with 'plank' (eg. lolly stick) taped over one eye
- A small brown paper or card ('plank') to be given to each child as they enter the worship space
- Quiet music to play during the REFLECTING time



WELCOME

*Fade the music and light 3 candles on the worship table as the opening words are spoken:*

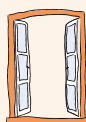
**WELCOME WORDS**  
 We have gathered together  
 to worship God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
 and learn about Jesus' teaching  
 about not judging others.  
 Today we are thinking about the value **community**.

*Hold up the plank/log and the tiny piece of wood and ask the children to look at the miniature plank that they have been given on their way into worship.*

*Ask children how many times bigger they think the log is compared to the wood chip?*

Barney, Bella and Bob are in their school worship team and Barney is already thinking about planning the next act of worship. Barney has read in the Bible about a time that Jesus talks about taking the log, or plank, out of your own eye before trying to remove a splinter from some else's eye. Bella and Bob are not sure Barney has got the 'right end of the stick'!

WORSHIP TIME



LEARNING

Three puppeteers operate puppets Barney, Bella and Bob from behind a screen or table covered with a cloth. Alternatively, the following text can be used as a drama script and acted out by three children.



(You can download a video from the Imaginor website of children from St David's C of E Primary Academy, Moreton-in-Marsh performing this drama with puppets.)

Bella and Bob are walking one way and Barney comes 'running' in the opposite direction. He has a cardboard strip or lolly stick ('plank') taped over one eye. He bumps into Bella.

PUPPET DRAMA: THE PLANK



**BELLA:** Hey! Watch where you're going Barney.

**BARNEY:** Sorry, I can't see very well.

**BOB:** Maybe it's got something to do with whatever it is that's covering your eye.

**BELLA:** *(taking a closer look)* What **is** that thing?

**BARNEY:** It's a plank. Aren't we doing about the bit in the Bible where Jesus says 'take the plank out of your eye'? This is my plank!

**BELLA:** Barney, you know Jesus wasn't meaning a real plank don't you?

**BARNEY:** Oh *(sounds disappointed)* really?

**BOB:** He was just warning people not to be hypocrites.

**BARNEY:** *(mystified)* What's a hypocrite?

**BOB:** It's when someone says *one* thing but actually *does* something else.

The 'plank' which is quite big, represents the bad thing. But even though the person has a plank in their own eye, they still try to tell someone else about the small thing, the 'speck' that is wrong with them!

**BELLA:** Yes, so that makes them a hypocrite.

Like this morning when James was making such a big deal about finding the person who had taken Radesh's pencil case, when we all know James himself is always stealing pens and rubbers and stuff, sometimes even off Mrs Green's desk!

**BARNEY:** So..... *(thoughtfully)* Jesus meant that we should be honest and see ourselves as we really are before telling other people what's wrong with them!

**BELLA:** *(triumphantly)* Yes, exactly right! That way we don't judge and criticise those around us.

**BARNEY:** *(downcast)* Well that's sad.

**BELLA:** *(confused)* Why?

**BARNEY:** Now I know it's not a story about a real plank after all; and my Dad made this plank for me especially! I have to use it somehow.

WORSHIP TIME

**BOB:** I have an idea. We all have things we know are wrong with the way we behave sometimes, right?

**BELLA:** Hmm, (*guiltily*) I'm always telling my cousin to get his homework done in plenty of time when I know I leave mine to the last minute.

**BOB:** So why not, as they are coming in to worship tomorrow, give everyone a small version of your plank to hold. In the prayer time, we can ask them to look at their plank and think about how it might represent something that they would like God to help them change.

**BARNEY:** Great idea! I can make those planks.  
(*bell goes*). See you later

**BELLA & BOB:** Bye Barney



REFLECTING

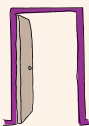
It is often much easier to see the faults in others before we recognise our own. Sometimes we even criticise people for doing something that we are *actually* guilty of doing ourselves! Judging and criticising people in front of others can make them feel sad or angry. It can spoil friendships and turn people in a community against one another.

Take the small symbol of a plank of wood that you were given when you came in to worship.

As you listen to the quiet music, hold your miniature plank in your hand and think about something that you feel sorry for and want God to help you to change in your life.

Ask God to help you see the good in others and not the bad.

*Play some quiet music for 2 or 3 minutes.*



RESPONDING

*Put the prayer on the screen so that everyone can join in.*

**PRAYER**  
 Father God, with your help I will try to ...  
**Praise** instead of **complain**  
**Encourage** instead of **criticise**  
 Be **thankful** instead of **moaning**  
 Be **interested** instead of **ignoring**  
**Listen** instead of **talking** all the time.  
 Amen