

2023 Aim Check-in

- Becoming disciples who make disciples, who make disciples.
 - Creating a community of faith that meaningfully engages our community of residence.
1. In the time since you last met as a H2H group, have you made any movement towards the aims we've set for 2023?
 2. How might we as a H2H group help support or encourage you towards these aims?

Discussion Questions Set #1

"Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye." (Matthew 7:1-5)

1. It is a generally well understood perception that followers of Jesus are apt to be judgemental (think of SNL's "church lady" skits). Why do you think this is the case? What might contribute to such an understanding?
2. Is this perception of judgmentalism just a misunderstanding of a healthy practice of the church or is it something more problematic?
3. Discuss the difference between judgment as condemnation and judgment as discernment.
4. What are some examples of judgement in the church that is:
 - a. Hypercritical
 - b. Hypocritical
 - c. Condemning
5. How might judgment that is not hypercritical, hypocritical or condemning permit us to better love one another and our neighbours as ourselves?
6. What are some "plank-removing" behaviours that we ought to engage in as followers of Jesus? How do these help clear our perception of the "speck" in the eye of another?
7. What do you think it means practically that **"in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you"**? What might this look like for the follower of Jesus?

Discussion Questions Set #2

"Do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to pigs. If you do, they may trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces." (Matthew 7:6)

"If any place will not welcome you or listen to you, leave that place and shake the dust off your feet as a testimony against them." (Mark 6:11)

"If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you." (James 1:5)

1. Discuss this quote: "as followers of Jesus, we judge for identification, not for condemnation".
2. Why do you think that Jesus is so emphatic that we don't expose the "pearl of the kingdom of God" to disrepute or abusive disdain? What difference does this make? Think about the dynamic between "treasuring" and "trampling" in answering this.
3. What kinds of things might you look for in determining whether someone is a dog or a pig or simply a lost sheep? What practical discerning behaviours might you engage in?
4. Discuss the balance necessary between showing Christ-like love that **"always protects, always trusts, always hopes"** (1 Corinthians 13:7) and Godly discernment that ensures the Gospel is not trampled. How might prayer come into play here?