



# PLANK

Matt VanCleave  
July 3, 2022

## GROUP ICE BREAKER

Share a fond memory from a 4th of July weekend or celebration.

## REVIEW LAST WEEK'S NEXT STEPS

What, if any, next step did you commit to last week? How did it go?

- I will pray, "God, make me accepting in a world of condemnation."
- I will ask God to replace judgment with acceptance.
- I will not hold other Christians to my standard of right and wrong when it's not supported in Scripture.
- I will guard myself from becoming legalistic in my assessment of others.

## THIS WEEK'S SERMON RECAP

This week we study Jesus' teaching about the plank and the speck from Matthew 7:1-6. Jesus says, "First take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from someone else's eye." Jesus knew that we're quick to see the problems, faults, shortcomings, and screw-ups in other people, yet we're slow to see them in our own life.

When we are led by judgment and condemnation, when we place another as the scapegoat for our own issues, we miss an opportunity to walk alongside and with God. We miss out on what God has placed in our lives to give us purpose and responsibility; we miss out on what it is to live in the kingdom of God.

Jesus shows us and challenges us to practice new rhythms and take on new responsibilities so that we can walk deeply with Him and with our community. Join us as we learn possibly the greatest relational prayer we can pray.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read Matthew 7:3-5. How do you think you would have felt or responded if you had been in the crowd listening to this message when Jesus first spoke it?
2. Why do you think it's often easier for us to find the speck in others eyes rather than look at the plank in our own?
3. During the sermon Matt encouraged us to start reflecting on what our plank is, what God wants to change in our life. If you are comfortable answering out-loud, what is your plank? If you don't want to answer that out-loud, try writing it down! What is your plank?



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## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (CONT)

4. What are some practices and ways you can engage with God this week as you begin to process and potentially heal from whatever your plank is?
5. How can we as a small group community walk alongside each other as we work on our planks?
6. As a small group community take some time to think about the beauty and the fruitfulness that will come from our moments away from judgment and condemnation. What future hope or excitement fuels your change this week?

## NEXT STEPS FOR THIS WEEK (COMMIT TO GROW)

- I will stop judging the behavior of others and trust that to God.
- I will not hold other Christians to my standard of right and wrong when it's not supported in Scripture.
- I will guard myself from becoming legalistic in my assessment of others.
- I will obey Jesus' command and take the plank out of my eye.
- I will focus on the plank in my eye, not the speck in someone else's.



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## SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

Matthew 7:3-5  
Genesis 2:17  
Genesis 3:11-12  
1 Peter 2:23-24  
Psalm 19:12

## Prayer Requests

Take time to share how you can be praying for each other over the next week:

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