

Connect Group Notes (24th November 2024)

Series: The Games We Play- The Shame Game

Main Scripture: Matthew 7:1-5

Getting Started

Icebreaker Question:

- What's your favourite childhood game? Were you the competitive one, or did you prefer just to enjoy playing?

Discussion Starter:

- Gareth shared what his friends and family said about his competitiveness—funny but a little humbling! How would your friends or family describe your approach to competition or conflict?

Getting Stuck In

Explore the main teaching from the message.

Read Together: Matthew 7:1-5

Encourage someone in the group to read the passage aloud.

Discussion Questions:

- What part of this passage challenges you the most? Why?
- Jesus uses a metaphor about the “plank” and the “speck.” What's the key message in this image? How does it apply to relationships?
- From the talk: “The way you measure others is how you'll be measured.” How does this change the way we interact with people?
- Why is self-awareness so critical when it comes to building healthy, loving relationships?

Getting Personal

Make it real and applicable.

Reflect Together:

- Think of a time when someone judged or criticised you. How did it feel? How did you respond?
- What “plank” might you need to deal with in your own life? How could addressing it help your relationships?
- Jesus calls us to show mercy. What's one way you can practice mercy this week in a difficult relationship?

Take It Further

This Week's Challenge:

- Identify one relationship where you've been critical or judgmental. This week, focus on offering grace and mercy instead.

Prayer Together:

- Ask God for wisdom to recognise your own “plank” and courage to deal with it.
- Pray for the strength to love others with grace and mercy, just as God loves us.
- Lift up anyone in the group who feels weighed down by shame, asking for healing and peace.