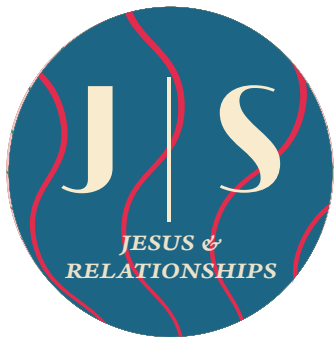




LESSON 1, DEVOTION 1

“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, ‘BROTHER, LET ME TAKE THE SPECK OUT OF YOUR EYE,’ WHEN YOU YOURSELF FAIL TO SEE THE PLANK IN YOUR OWN EYE? YOU HYPOCRITE, FIRST TAKE THE PLANK OUT OF YOUR EYE, AND THEN YOU WILL SEE CLEARLY TO REMOVE THE SPECK FROM YOUR BROTHER’S EYE.” - LUKE 6:41-42

From the early 1980s through the 1990s, Korean Air had a terrible safety record. It was so bad that for a time, the U.S. Department of Defense employees were banned from flying on Korean Air. Then, Korean Air hired David Greenberg, a retired Vice President of Delta, to improve their safety record and their overall operations. Greenberg identified several major issues, but one was surprising. At Korean Air, cockpit pilots regularly ignored warnings from co-pilots. In Korean culture authority is extremely important, so pilots interpreted corrections from co-pilots as damaging their authority. They were committing major safety violations simply because they would not listen to correction.

Read Luke 6:41-42, the passage you studied in Bible study this week. As you read, notice that Jesus doesn't say "Don't remove the speck from your brother's eye." He says "Make sure you are seeing clearly when you do." We all need correction from time to time. This happens best in a relationship of accountability when both people are genuinely trying to help each other. It's good to help a friend see his or her sin and remove it when you are motivated by an authentic love for him or her, and not attempting to make yourself look better.

Just like these Korean pilots needed their co-pilots to call them out, we also need people in our lives to gently and lovingly approach us out about our sin. Sometimes we need help removing specks and planks.

Today, pray that God would bring someone into your life that can hold you accountable, and that you will be receptive to their words.

LESSON 1, DEVOTION 2

It is easy to forget to extend grace and understanding to other people, especially in the times we need to the most. Let's face it, it's usually not during a Bible study when it's hard to be gracious and understanding. It's usually when we are out, living our everyday life. So, let's get creative today and make a reminder we'll see on a daily basis.

Today, take your phone and go hunting for objects that remind you of a plank and objects that remind you of a speck. Then, use your phone to take pictures of both objects. Use your imagination regarding what could represent a plank and speck.

Then use your choice of the many apps that combine photos to combine the two images into a single frame. Save your new plank/speck image as the wallpaper on your phone. Then every time you open your phone, you'll have a visual reminder to extend grace and understanding to other people!

LESSON 1, DEVOTION 3

"But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you." - Luke 6:27, 28

Take a moment to read Luke 6:27-28.

"Love your enemies" is one of the most radical teachings of Jesus. All of our relationships need to be centered on Jesus, which means even our relationships with people we don't like much, people we might consider enemies. Jesus doesn't just teach that we should tolerate those people, but that we should actively pursue opportunities to do good to them. WHAT!?! It's shocking, but Jesus says we should seek the good of those who are not seeking good for us. This should first look like praying for them, but depending on the

situation could grow into showing them fairness. Think about the disciples. Though Jesus knew that Judas would betray Him, He still allowed him to eat with everyone else.

You will never change someone's behavior, but you can always show them kindness when they do not deserve it. Giving them a fair opportunity to join a school club, picking up a piece of homework they dropped in the hallway and returning it to them, and even seeking out ways to compliment them on something good they are doing are all great ways to show kindness to someone who shows you rudeness.