



# LIFE GROUPS 2019

NLC Life Group Study

Week of March 17, 2019

GOD NEVER SAID THAT |  
Only God Can Judge Me

# Life Group Schedule

**30 MIN** Eat, Meet & Greet

**15 MIN** Ice Breaker: **Sentence Starters.** Before the group meets, write sentence starters on slips of paper. Have each person pull a slip from a bowl and write their name, read the sentence starter, and then complete it. They should also provide several additional sentences of information that coincide with their sentence starter. Read the completed slips when everyone has arrived to help everyone get to know each other. Variation: Have the group sit in a circle. Pull one slip at a time from a basket, read the sentence starter, then have each person take turns completing them. The following is a sample list of sentence starters:

Although most people don't find...	I am...
I have never...	I love it when...
I love to...	I think I have the best...
I would never...	My idea of beauty is...
The best thing I ever did for my child is...	The best way for me to relax is...
The most important decision I ever made was...	The biggest and best...
The funniest thing that ever happened to me was...	The best way to save...
The greatest thing my child ever did was...	The lowest...
The thing that makes me laugh is...	The most unbelievable thing...
There is nothing I enjoy more than...	When I think of prunes...

**TRANSITION:** As you're gathering, spend some time in **WORSHIP & PRAYER.**

## **45 MIN | GOD NEVER SAID THAT | ONLY GOD CAN JUDGE ME**

- Only God has authority to judge your eternal life. (**SEE MATT. 7:1-2**). The Bible does say, "Judge not, lest you be judged," and "the one without sin cast the first rock."
- Jesus really said, "When you judge, do it the right way." (**SEE JN. 7:24**)
- There is pain with unfair judgment, and sometimes the judgment is tougher than the mistake.

**Q1.** Have you ever been the victim of bad judgment? Have you ever gotten it wrong yourself?

### **A FAULTY MINDSET THAT CREATES JUDGMENT:**

- *You are more enraged at someone else's sin than you are embarrassed by your own.*
  - › A huge sign of immaturity is frustration with hypocrisy. This happens sometimes to the point where you separate from the church in an incorrect way. A mature sign is knowing that the same hypocrisy that is in the church is also in you. It's not, "Who died and made you king?" It's "Did you forget why the King died?" Always be painfully aware of your own sin.
- *You "cut off" those who disagree with you.*
  - › The ultimate statement of judgment is, "Depart from me." Only God can say that. Judgment without Christ is cutting people off.

**Q2.** What area of your life exemplifies judgment?

- › Results: We don't experience favor in that area of our lives.
- › Hold your convictions but let one conviction be love. Jesus called Judas "friend," even after Judas betrayed him.
- ***You refuse to receive criticism yourself. (SEE JAMES 5:16)***
  - › We hate to admit our faults. You can't receive the gospel without admitting you need it.
- ***You are hesitant to stand strong and correct someone for Christ. (SEE ROM. 14:1, PR. 27:17)***
  - › Be strong in God's Word. We can correct people without being hateful. Judging correctly is pleading with people to repent.
- Many of us are no longer growing because no one can challenge us.
  - › We call any challenge "judgment," then we stop learning, asking questions, growing, and we repeat the same mistakes over and over. Accountability is wise. Christianity is personal, but it can never be private.
  - › I would rather run the risk of embarrassing myself with a handful of people who know me and care about me than to run the risk of embarrassing myself in front of a lot of people who could care less about me.

**WHY DO PEOPLE HESITATE TO LIVE ACCOUNTABLE:**

1. IT WILL COST PERSONAL CONVENIENCE. **(SEE ACTS 2:46, PR. 17:17)**
    - Be accountable to friends above you, beside you, and below you. Friends who are allowed to judge you are saving you.
  2. IT WILL COST TIME.
    - The hardest part is time. You can't make more of it, but no enduring relationship is built without giving time to it. **(SEE PR. 27:17)**
    - Integrity Questions: Did you look at anything inappropriately? Did you lie to anyone? Did you keep integrity with money? Did you just lie to me?
  3. IT WILL COST PRAYER. **(SEE ACTS 2:42-47; ACTS 12:5)**
    - The early church was praying together, praising together, checking on each other, eating together.
    - We each need people who love us but who also challenge us, pulling for us, willing to take a chance, pray for us.
    - Stop living like only God will judge you.
- Q3.** Who do you know is praying for you? Who in your life is asking integrity questions?

**PRAY OVER NEEDS, ANNOUNCEMENTS**