



## 5 BIBLE STUDIES

For Groups, Individuals & 1:1

## Welcome to “More Myths Smart People Believe”

At Trinity, our teaching program generally follows a pattern of working our way sections of the Bible over a number of weeks. We aim to explore the different genres of both the Old and New Testament in a fairly systematic way. From time to time however, we step out of this systematic teaching through the Scriptures and address some topical issues. The teaching series these studies accompany are one such series, looking at More Myths Smart People Believe. As the title suggests, the series is a follow on from a series in 2012, “4 Myths Smart People Believe.

If you're using these studies in a **Bible Study Group**, try to make sure you've read the passage and done your preparation before you meet. This will be of great benefit not only to you, but also to the other members of your group.

If you're a **Bible Study Group Leader** please don't feel that your group needs to answer every question in every study. With such a wide variety of ages and personalities in our church, we have included a number of different types of questions, including some which reflect on the same points, just from slightly different perspectives. Please choose the questions most appropriate for your group.

If you're doing these studies **individually**, why not let someone know you are doing so, and arrange a time to meet with them when you've finished (or even before) to let them know how your life is being changed by God's Word.

Always surround your time looking into God's Word with prayer, asking God to change your heart and life so that you – with God's people – might become more and more like our Lord Jesus Christ.

### ***Study 1 Leaders' Notes***

#### **Matthew 6:19 - 34 & 1 Timothy 6:6 - 10**

#### **Just a Little Bit More Would Be Enough**

6:20 Jesus uses similar language in 19:21, which may suggest that here he has giving to the poor in mind.

See Luke 16:1 – 15 for further teaching by Jesus on use of money.

6:21 In verses 19 and 20 Jesus uses the plural “you,” but here in verse 21 it is singular. Jesus drives his point home very personally!

6:23 This section closes with a statement about “spiritual” light. A healthy physical eye allows us to live well in the world. Similarly, a healthy “spiritual eye” means we can see things clearly in spiritual terms.

6:25 – 34 Notice that Jesus doesn’t promise his disciples a life free from challenge or difficulty. If that were the case, there would be no need for these instructions!

6:26 Jesus isn’t speaking against work, but worry.

### ***Study 2 Leaders' Notes***

#### **2 Corinthians 1:8 – 11 & 1 Corinthians 10:12 - 13**

#### **God will never give you more than you can handle**

2 Cor 1:8 We don’t know which specific hardships Paul had in mind here, but perhaps the most likely is his experience in Ephesus (See Acts 19:23 – 41).

2 Cor 1:9 Paul writes literally “indeed we ourselves have received the sentence of death in ourselves” suggesting that he probably isn’t referring to a literal death sentence being imposed on him and his colleagues, but that humanly speaking, he sees no way his life can be spared.

1 Cor 10:13 God doesn't promise a life free from temptation or difficulty. But he does offer the means to withstand.

### ***Study 3 Leaders' Notes***

#### **Matthew 7:1 - 6, 15 - 19**

#### **Christians shouldn't judge, just accept**

7:1 John Stott comments on this verse that the instruction "to not judge is not a requirement to be blind, but rather a plea to be generous." *The Message of the Sermon on the Mount* p 177.

If we quickly pass judgment on others, others will do the same to us, and beyond that, we will have to give account to God for the harshness with which we have treated our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Jesus' concern here is with judgment and condemnation of others, particularly where this is coupled with a blindness to our own faults.

7:3 Of course Jesus isn't suggesting that on every occasion when we point out sin in another's life that we are more sinful ourselves. But compared to the sin God sees in us, the sin we observe in others is very small!

7:4 Even though the plank in one's own eye makes it impossible to help in this hypothetical situation, nevertheless, notice that Jesus expects Kingdom citizens will try to help each other.

7:6 This is a qualifier to the application of "do not judge." It is right to be discerning in how we handle "what is sacred" (probably the teaching of the Kingdom of God).

7:16 "Fruit" here is used to direct our attention beyond the outward appearance of those who claim to speak the truth to their lives and actions.

7:19 Hear the warning for the tree that bears bad fruit!

## **Matthew 6:19 - 34 & 1 Timothy 6:6 - 10**

### **Just a Little Bit More Would Be Enough**

1. What does it mean to be content?
2. Why do you think so many people struggle to find contentment?
3. What are some of the worries that weigh down people you know?

### **Read 1 Timothy 6:6 - 10**

4. What do you think is the opposite of contentment?
5. Verse 10 is often misquoted as “money is the root of all evil.” How is what the passage actually says different?
6. How is it that Paul can say “godliness with contentment is great gain” (v 6)?

## **Read Matthew 6:19 - 34**

**7.** Why do we often think we can serve both God and money?

**8.** What does it mean to seek first God's kingdom and his righteousness?

**9.** What are the treasures that we can store up in heaven?

**10.** How do we ensure that our spiritual eyes are filling our lives with light?

**11.** How can we diagnose where our treasure, and therefore our heart, is?

**12.** What are the sorts of things you're tempted to worry about the most?

**13.** What might be some of the signs to look out for in our lives, which indicate we're in danger of being discontent?

**14.** How does the gospel of Jesus help you be content?

**15.** Having read these passages, how would you respond to a friend who says, "I'd be content if I had just a little bit more"?

## **2 Corinthians 1:8 – 11 & 1 Corinthians 10:12 – 13**

### **God will never give you more than you can handle**

**1.** Have you ever had a near-death experience?  
What thoughts flashed through your mind?

**2.** What experience in life do you hope you never have to face?

**3.** What circumstances do you think would make you depend on God more?

### **Read 2 Corinthians 1:8 – 11**

**4.** Are you aware of any situations in Paul's life and ministry that might form the background to these verses?

**5.** What must be going on for someone such that they would despair "of life itself" (v 8)?

**6.** Have you ever felt like Paul's experiences here have been true of you?



**7.** What specific reason does Paul give as to why these things came to pass in his life?

**8.** Why do you think Paul adds “... who raises the dead” to the end of his explanation?

**9.** What does it look like to rely on yourself when life seems overwhelming?

**10.** What does it look like to rely on God in these kind of circumstances?

**11.** Why would God go to such lengths to teach Paul this lesson?

**12.** What gets in the way of us relying on God like this?

**13.** Based on what we can tell from this section, what would have happened if Paul and his companions had not learned to rely on God?

**Read 1 Corinthians 10:12 – 13**

**14.** What is the warning given in these verses?

**15.** What promise is given to the disciple of Jesus here?

**16.** Consider the statement “God will not give you more than you can handle.”

- In what ways is this true?

- In what ways is this false?

**17.** What is the danger in clinging to an un-nuanced statement that God will never give you more than you can handle?

## **Matthew 7:1 - 6, 15 - 19**

### **Christians shouldn't judge, just accept**

- 1.** Have you ever grown your own fruit? What do you remember of the experience?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 2.** Can you recall a time when you were judged unfairly? How did you feel? React?

### **Read Matthew 7:1 - 6**

- 3.** What features of relationships between Christians is implied or made explicit in this passage?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 4.** What are some of the areas where we are most at risk of not seeing our own faults or sinfulness?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 5.** Why do we often fail to see the sin in our own lives, but can easily discern failings in others?

**6.** If the plank in our own eye represents the sin that God sees in us, how should we think about correcting brothers and sisters in Christ?

**Read Matthew 7:15 - 19**

**7.** What “fruit” of the false prophets does Jesus want his followers to be on their guard against?

**8.** What fruit should we be looking for as an assurance of the truth?

**9.** How is Jesus’ instruction here a useful corrective to a unthinking application of “do not judge”?

**10.** What is the danger in not making use of our critical faculties when we observe the conduct and speech of others?

- 11.** In which areas do you think we need to be more critical as we observe and listen to those who claim to teach Christian truth?
- 12.** What is the warning in the second half of verse 16?
- 13.** In what way is “do not judge” only part of the instruction to followers of Jesus?
- 14.** What principles for living as citizens of God’s kingdom does Jesus establish in these two sections of teaching?
- 15.** There’s a bumper sticker that reads “Jesus is coming, look busy!” How does this fall short of what Jesus requires of his followers?







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