



You're Not the Judge

James 4: 11-12

Bobby Harrington

August 23rd, 2026

Leaders: Don't feel pressured to get through every question during your group time. Our hope is that your group experiences honest conversation and goes deeper in God's Word—not that you finish the entire list. Feel free to choose the questions that best fit the needs of your group, and allow the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion.

1. Read James 4:11-12 three times. What stands out to you from this passage and the sermon? Explain.
2. When have you recently spoken critically about another person—whether in a private conversation, a text, or even just in your own thoughts—and what was really going on in your heart at that moment?
3. How does it feel, deep down, when you catch yourself sizing up or judging another person, even a fellow Christian's motives, maturity, or decisions? What does that impulse reveal about your view of yourself in relation to them?
4. James says that when we speak against a brother or sister we are actually sitting in judgment on God's law. In what specific ways has your critical speech toward others revealed that you were treating the "royal law of love" as optional for yourself?
5. The text reminds us that only God has the power to save and to destroy. Where in your life right now are you tempted to take on a role that belongs only to Him—especially in how you evaluate or talk about other people in the church?
6. Think of a relationship with another believer that has been strained by critical words (yours or theirs). What would it look like for you to step down from the judge's seat in that relationship and become a genuine "doer of the law" instead?
7. While we must not slander or be judgmental, we must make good judgements about morality and doctrine, etc., How are these two things different and how do we keep a healthy balance?
8. Bobby's sermon ended on three key application points. Which one is most helpful to you and why?
 - **Check your speech.**
 - **Practice the opposite.**
(**Ephesians 4:29** "Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.")
 - **Remember your own need.** The same God who can destroy is the One who has shown mercy to you. Extending that same mercy to others is not weakness; it is obedience.

Reminders:

- **DK Teachers needed:** Do you have a heart for children and ministry? We are in need of DK Teachers and Crew, would love for you to serve on Sunday mornings as a **classroom teacher!** If this interests you, please email Shealey Sims at shealeys@harpethcc.com for more information!
- **Safety Team:** We are looking for a few additional men and women who have a heart to serve on our safety team ministry! Team members participate in ongoing training, work closely together, and are committed to being prepared to respond wisely- should the need ever arise. Some members are licensed concealed carry holders, while others serve in non-firearm support roles. If you have a servant's heart, remain calm under pressure, and feel called to help protect our church family, we would love to talk with you. Contact **Nancy List** (nanlist429@gmail.com) for more information.
- **Digging Deep:** New Digging Deep class starts Friday, August 21, and runs through September 25! Join us as we study Christian Apologetics. Fridays from 6:30-8am in Room 117, Building C. Register below!



- **Fall Women's Wednesday Studies:** We have an AM and a PM class on Wednesdays this fall, studying *Elijah* by Priscilla Shirer! Classes run Sept. 16-Nov. 11. Childcare is provided for both classes, with prior registration. Register below and read more info by scanning the QR code!

