INTRODUCTION

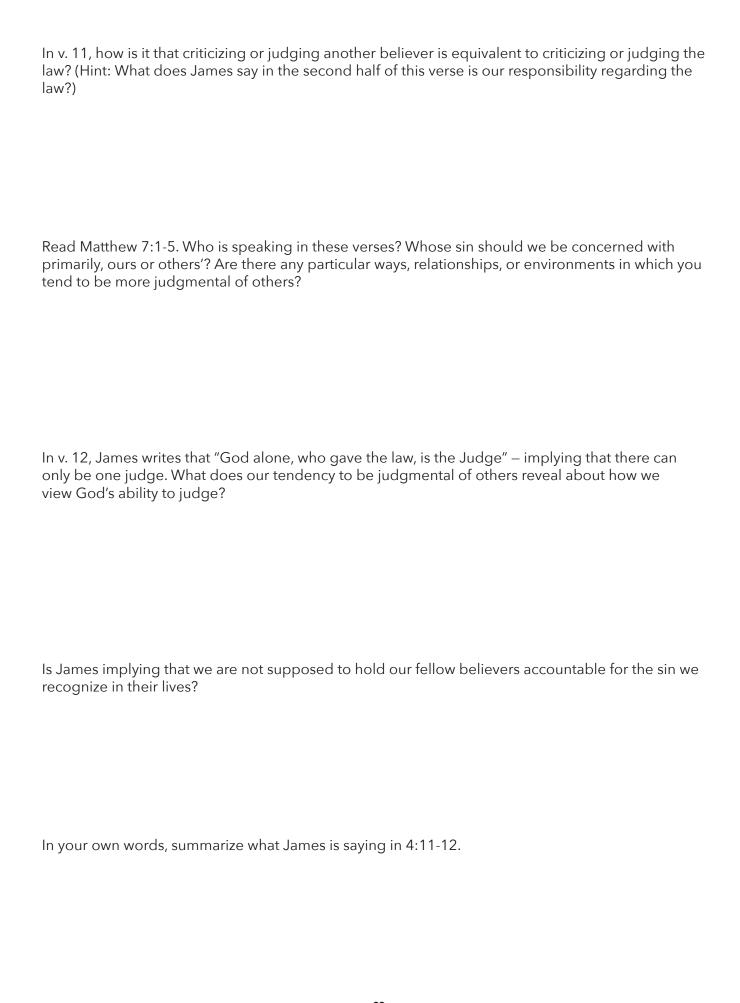
One of the greatest challenges many Christians will face as they begin to grow in godliness and maturity of faith will be what to do with their words as they relate to other believers. As one grows in his faith, it becomes easier to recognize sin in his own life – but at the same time, it becomes easier to see the sin in others' lives as well. Along with that growing awareness can often come a growing sense of self-righteousness and the temptation to put others down and slander their reputation. Clearly, James is concerned with the way believers treat one another, especially as it pertains to what they say about one another (as we have seen already in 3:1-12). Here, James helps us understand how the way we judge and defame one another ultimately reveals arrogance in the way we view others, the law, ourselves, and God himself.

REFLECTION

¹¹Don't speak evil against each other, dear brothers and sisters. If you criticize and judge each other, then you are criticizing and judging God's law. But your job is to obey the law, not to judge whether it applies to you. ¹²God alone, who gave the law, is the Judge. He alone has the power to save or to destroy. So what right do you have to judge your neighbor? **JAMES 4:11-12**

What does James specifically command us not to do in v. 11? Do you think "speak evil" includes saying things that are false, true, or both?

What specific commandment did James quote in 2:8 as a summary of the whole law? How is it that speaking evil against a fellow believer violates that commandment?



| In these verses, James appears to be ending a section of his letter that began in 3:1. Look back through the three previous sections – what was the main idea with each, and how does this section tie them all together? |
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| • 3:1-12 |
| • 3:13-4:3 |
| • 4:4-10 |
| • 4:11-12 |
| IMPLICATIONS |
| WINDOWS What does this teach me about God? How does this text show God's attributes, character cares/concerns, tendencies, etc.? What does this reveal about what He's like and how He acts? |
| MIRRORS What does this teach me about myself? How does this text show my own attributes, character, likes/dislikes, tendencies, etc.? |

PICTURES What does this teach me about the way God and mankind should interact? Look for ways we are to live and respond to God for his glory, our good, and the good of others. Specifically...

Starting today, how should I...think?

...feel?

...act?