

# **National Junior High Sunday 2020**

*“Take the Log Out” based on Matthew 7:3-5*

## **Children’s Story**

### **Option 1 (will work well online)**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3VmlkG8O6ag>

This short video (2 minutes 26 seconds) titled “The Log and the Speck” was produced by LifeKids. The video features a conversation between two kids about what the word “judgmental” means and that we should refrain from being judgmental.

### **Option 2 (will work better in-person)**

*In preparation, find two pairs of old sunglasses/glasses, two sheets of paper, and crayons/markers. Cut out a large “log-ish” shape; color it to look like a log if you want. (The log should be comically larger than the sunglasses themselves.) Tape the log to one pair of glasses, clearly making it impossible for the wearer to see anything. Next cut out a small “speck” for the second pair of glasses. The speck should be large enough for the kids/congregation to see, but small enough to fit inside one of the lenses.*

*Take the two pairs of prepared glasses to the children inside of a box or bag so they can’t see them until you introduce them.*

When the kids gather, explain that the kids are going to help you re-create a lesson Jesus taught many years ago, and that you need two volunteers.

Thank the volunteers.

Ask one volunteer to put on the pair of log glasses. After the laughter and silliness has calmed down, ask the child what they can see. Pick out things in the sanctuary that should be easily visible and ask if they can see those things. Obviously, the answer will be no. Ask the other kids why they think the person with the glasses on can’t see anything. Repeat back what the kids are saying, helping them to understand that the log is the problem.

Now give the other volunteer the speck glasses. Repeat the process of asking how much the person can see, and a few questions to demonstrate that they can actually see a few things, even with the speck on the glasses.

Have the volunteers take of and give you the glasses.

Ask whether anyone has actually had a log in their eye. Then ask whether anyone has had a speck in their eye.

Explain that in today's Bible story, Jesus shows us that we should fix our own problems before we tell others how to fix their problems. Have you ever wanted to fix someone else's problem before you fixed your own? (Feel free to give kid-friendly examples – “have you ever told on a brother or sister for hitting? Have you ever hit someone? So what should we do first – stop ourselves from hitting, or make someone else stop hitting?) When it feels like the point has been made, close in prayer.

Suggestion: “Loving God, help us to remember the story Jesus told about the log and the speck. Remind us to fix our own problems first. This week, help us to think about our own actions and choices before we think about the actions and choices of others. Amen.”