

Discussion Guide

Use this guide by yourself, with a friend, or in a group to help you pursue a deeper relationship with Jesus this week!

Open

As we continue to look at the book of John in the New Testament, this week Pastor Don examines John 8:1-11. In this passage, the Pharisees try to trap Jesus by publicly presenting Him with what they see as a choice which, in their minds, has only two possible outcomes: either forgiveness or condemnation. From their perspective, if Jesus chooses to forgive then they can say He's disobeying God's laws. If He chooses to condemn, then they believe the people will start to abandon Him. Jesus' answer, however, shows that their understanding of God's response to our sinfulness is deeply flawed. To get your group started, tell of a time in your childhood when someone tattled on you to get you in trouble...

BIG THOUGHT

In Jesus' interaction with the woman caught in adultery, we see an example of how God desires to relate to us with both grace and truth. (John 1:14)

1. Read John 8:2. Where did Jesus go? What time was it? And what was He doing there? Knowing that the temple was the place where all of the religious leaders would gather, why do you think Jesus chose to go there to teach?
2. Now read v. 3-5. Who shows up at Jesus' teaching time? And who do they bring with them? Who should've also been brought (but is noticeably absent)? (v. 3) Which elements in this situation make it feel like a contrived situation? Explain. How would you have felt if you were the woman? If you were in the crowd watching this confrontation happen would you have stayed around or left? Why?

3. Read v. 6. What do you think the religious leaders were hoping would happen? Share your thoughts with the group. And why do you think Jesus started writing on the ground? Any thoughts as to what He wrote?
4. Now read v. 7-8. What do you think Jesus' statement meant (in what way was it a challenge to the scribes and Pharisees)? If you had been the accused woman, what would you have thought when you heard His response?
5. Read v. 9. How did the crowd respond to His statement? Why do you think John wanted us to know who left first - why is that important?
6. To finish, read v. 10-11. How do you interpret Jesus' final exchange with the woman - an acquittal? Warning? Encouragement? Challenge? Something else?

Take it Further

Talk with God, and thank Him for His willingness to provide us with both forgiveness (through Jesus' sacrifice) and truth (through the Bible). Then ask Him to help you treat others with compassion, too.

Daily Verse Readings

Day 1: Nehemiah 9:31

Day 4: Exodus 34:6

Day 2: Matthew 11:28-30

Day 5: Matthew 9:36

Day 3: Psalm 86:5

Day 6: Hebrews 4:15

Memory Verse: John 8:11b



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