

Weekend Resources

October 26, 2025

The Third Way - When Sides Divide, Love Stands in the Middle

Use these questions and resources during your study time or with your group.

RECAP: In a world that demands we take sides, Jesus shows a different path — one that holds both grace and truth. Through the story of the woman caught in adultery, we see that the way of Jesus isn't about condemning or condoning, but compassion that leads to transformation.

MAIN POINTS

- Lean In
- Listen to Understand
- Learn Their Story
- Love Them Where They Are

GETTING STARTED

• Are you more of a "law and order" person (you love structure and rules) or a "go with the flow" person (you make it up as you go)?

SCRIPTURE

John 8:4-5; John 8:7; John 8:10-11

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What stands out to you about Jesus' decision to pause and kneel before responding to the crowd? What might that reveal about His understanding of people and truth?
- The message described "binary thinking" seeing life as either/or, right/wrong, grace/truth. Why do you think we as humans are so drawn to that kind of thinking?
- In what ways does this story challenge common ideas about justice, mercy, and what it means to stand for truth?

APPLICATION

- **Lean In:** Who in your life thinks, believes, or lives differently than you and what would it look like to take one small step toward spending time with them rather than keeping your distance?
- **Listen to Understand / Learn Their Story:** When was the last time you really listened to someone without planning your response? What helps you stay curious instead of defensive in those moments?
- Love Them Where They Are: How might your relationships change if you prioritized caring for people before correcting them the way Jesus did with the woman caught in adultery?

RESOURCES

- "The dualistic mind, upon which most of us were taught to rely, is simply incapable of the task of creating unity. It automatically divides reality into binary opposites and does almost all its thinking inside of this highly limiting frame. It dares to call this choosing of sides "thinking" because that is all it knows how to do! "Really good" thinking then becomes devising a strong argument for our side and against another side, race, group, political party, or religion." Franciscan Priest
- "If I don't publicly and vocally take their stand, their way, on their day then I'm a coward." Phil EuBank
- "It's the image our culture is spending trillions of dollars to deform us into." Phil EuBank