

Dear Life Group Leaders,

This week we are looking at the well known and dramatic story of the woman caught in adultery. Remember, John's purpose in writing his gospel is to convince us that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, the Word made flesh and the saviour of the world (John 1:9 & John 20:31). This story is often presented as a little warning against hypocrisy, "people in glass houses..." etc. In fact, it presents far deeper truths about the humanity and divinity of Jesus and the ultimate destiny of every single one of us.

God bless,

David

(This week's Life Group Guide is brought to you by David Featherstone who leads our Sutton Venue)

LIFE GROUP GUIDE

John 7:53-8:12

This Week's BIG IDEA: Jesus alone is qualified to judge.

Please read John 7:53-8:12

1. Picture yourself in this story; perhaps as part of the crowd, one of the disciples or even the woman herself. What emotions are stirred in you as you read?
2. Why were the religious leaders so angry with Jesus? What does Jesus' comment about them later in the chapter (John 8:44) suggest about his understanding of what lay behind their opposition to him?
3. Please read Ephesians 6:12. Have you ever felt that someone's response to you as a believer reflected something deeper than simply human personalities clashing? How should knowing that affect our responses to those seeking to challenge or test our faith?
[Leaders note: the point here is not to stir up fear or aggression, but alertness, prayer and dependence on the Holy Spirit as Jesus' response is about to demonstrate.]
4. v6, thinking of Jesus as a human being just like us, what can we learn from the way that he took himself low and gave himself time before answering? How does this compare to you when you feel attacked, threatened or criticised?
5. Please share good and bad experiences and principles that you have learned in dealing with emotive, argumentative or threatening situations.
[Leaders note: As fully human, Jesus was demonstrating how a Spirit-filled person can live in this world. In your group there will be lots of wisdom about dealing with conflict (faith based or not) try to draw some of it out.]
6. Please read Exodus 31:18 and Daniel 5:5, 26. As fully God, what might Jesus' writing on the ground have signified?
[Leaders note: the religious leaders have mockingly invited Jesus to judge this woman but as eternal God he is uniquely qualified to judge them all.]
7. Please read John 5:22 and 2 Corinthians 5:10. How would a greater awareness that one day everyone will stand where that woman stood (before Jesus awaiting judgment) affect your day-to-day life?
8. v11, "Neither do I condemn you". How can we be confident that Jesus will speak these words over us?
[Leaders note: hopefully many in your group will express clear gospel hope. But some may lack assurance and others may not yet have come to saving faith. Where people express uncertainty point them back to early truths covered in the John series (e.g John 1:29 and John 3:16). In the moment you might simply commend them for their honesty, reassure them that the whole point of Life Groups is that grow in our understanding, and we are going to keep doing that as we meet week by week. But also be open to those who may need one to one follow up this could be a breakthrough moment!]
9. v12, reflect together on Jesus' statement in this verse. How might they help us understand Jesus' instruction to the woman in v11?
[Leaders note: this is link darkness and sin. Jesus invitation is that life would flow through us to the world around us. You could also cross reference with John 7:38-29.]