



## Northland Christian Church Group Discussion Guide For the Week of April 4, 2022

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*Use the questions below as a springboard for discussion. You do not have to answer every question. Pick the ones you think will be helpful. Remember, Ultimately we want God's answers, not man's opinions. Always land where God lands. (ex: Where do we see that in the Bible?) Give grace. Give time for growth. Don't force it. Growth takes time, love, good questions, & support.*

### Connect

- Have you ever been caught in the act of doing something that you knew was wrong? What did you experience as a result of being found guilty of wrongdoing—condemnation or grace?
- What is the most powerful example of compassion and love that you have witnessed recently?

### Context

Today's text is a fascinating passage. For both its content, teaching, inspiration, but also for the fact that it is a "textual variant". What's that? This story is absent from all of the oldest manuscripts. But there is nothing in it unworthy of sound doctrine. Remember, the story of Jesus was talked about before it was written down. Meaning, the culture was highly oratory and people talked about the events before the authors wrote them down. They did not have access to the supplies, paper, education, transportation, and so forth. So they often verbally passed on the stories from person to person. Consequently, the book of John was written decades after Jesus rose from the grave. That being said, this story is so true to the heart of God and was passed along because the moment Jesus did this, it was something that rang out throughout history. It was filled with such wisdom, grace, mercy, and richness that it was held in deep esteem and shared down. So, it likely seems best to view the story as something that probably happened during Jesus' ministry but that was not originally part of what John wrote in his Gospel. Therefore it should not be used as the basis for building any point of doctrine unless confirmed in Scripture.

Having said that, there is still much for us to learn, be inspired by, and get a beautiful view of the heart, love, and grace of God.

[Click HERE](#) or  
**Point Your Camera App at the  
QR Code below to watch a video and  
learn more about textual variants**



### Engage the Bible

Read the passage and share Surprises, Takeaways, and Observations from:

**John 7:53 - John 8:1-11** NIV

"Then they all went home, 1 but Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. 2 At dawn he appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered around him, and he sat down to teach them. 3 The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group 4 and said to

Jesus, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. 5 In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" 6 They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him. But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. 7 When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." 8 Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground. 9 At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. 10 Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" 11 "No one, sir," she said. "Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin."

### Discuss

1. What did the Scribes and Pharisees really want to do with Jesus? Did they actually respect him as a religious teacher? Read [John 5:18; 7:1; 7:32; 43-44](#).
2. How did Jesus respond to the specific question that the Scribes and Pharisees ask? Read John 8:6-8. How is this response different than expected? How is it shocking?
3. What do the religious leaders do when Jesus says that the one who is without sin should cast the first stone? Who leaves first and why do you think they did?
4. Describe Jesus' attitude toward this woman. What does this scene teach us about how Jesus treats sinners?
5. If you were this woman, how would you feel about Jesus?
6. In what ways are we often quick to jump to judgment of others, as the Pharisees did? What steps can we take to see others through the eyes of compassion and stop judging others?
7. How have you experienced the compassion and grace of Jesus toward you in your own sin?
8. How should the reality of our sin and our faults guide us when we feel compelled to condemn others?
9. Does grace erase the consequences of wrongdoing? Explain why or why not. Cite a specific example from your life or from Scripture that helps defend your answer.
10. What is Jesus' command to this woman as she goes from being condemned to experiencing freedom and grace? What is the application for us in this?
11. How has your life changed because of the grace and mercy that you have received from Jesus?

### Challenge:

The grace of Jesus is meant to change us, and free us from a life of sin and shame. Like this woman, who was told to go and sin no more, may your life be free from sin and the condemnation that sin brings.

Complete this thought: Because of the grace of Jesus in my life, I will no longer be bound by the sin of

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**End Your Group Time in Prayer**