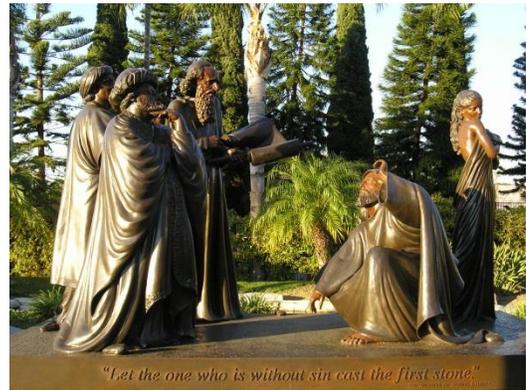


**Week # 2**  
**“Just Give Me Jesus” Series**  
**Cedar Grove Church – February 20, 2016**  
**Leaders Guide**

**“The Man Caught in Adultery”**  
**John 8:1-11**  
**Toni Dolfo-Smith**



**GROUP DISCUSSION:**

(Focus on the questions you feel might be most helpful for your group. You probably will not be able to get through all of them).

1. What kind of things do you witness happening around you that tend to upset you the most – to stir up “righteous anger” in you? What is at issue in these kinds of things that get you so riled up?
2. How does God’s Word apply to the things you mentioned that anger you most?
3. Have someone in your group **read the Scripture** passage: **John 8:1-11**.
4. Who were the main parties in this story and how would you describe each of them?
  - The woman** – caught in an act of sin – ashamed – fearful, knowing she could be stoned to death, alone.
  - The Scribes and Pharisees** – powerful religious leaders – prideful of their self-righteousness – vengeful – about to exact “God’s judgment” on the woman they had caught.
  - Jesus** – Son of God who came to give his life to provide forgiveness of sins – compassionate – focused on true righteousness and truth.
5. What had this woman whom the religious leaders brought to Jesus, been caught doing? What sin had she committed? What laws had she broken?

Exodus 20:14, Deut. 5:18; cf. Matt. 5:27 – *“You shall not commit adultery.”*
6. If the “law” clearly stated that a woman caught in adultery should be stoned, why did Jesus not insist that this judgment be carried out according to the law? What issues might override the penalties of the law?

Various points could be put forward: the Pharisees “trap”; Jesus came to provide salvation; He offers forgiveness when he sees repentance; the heart of God – not wanting any to perish, etc.
7. What strikes you as “just plain wrong” about this story? Anything?

Various points: sense of injustice; of the powerful elite setting a trap; ulterior motives; etc. ...
8. If adultery requires two people, where was the man in this scenario? Why do you think the religious leaders had not brought him along with the woman to be judged by Jesus?

Maybe the leaders' male chauvinism and disregard for women? Let the man go free as they only needed the woman to spring their trap.

9. What do you think were the Scribes and Pharisees real motives in setting up this encounter? Why? How does this make you feel towards them?

Trying to catch Jesus as disregarding the Mosaic law, which they lived for! Then they could condemn him! But Jesus gave no answer. He let their guilty consciences decide what to do.

10. What struck you as interesting about the speaker's switch of title from, "The Woman" to, "The Man Caught in Adultery?"

11. We will never know for sure, this side of heaven, what Jesus wrote in the sand, but what do you think it might have been? Why do you say that?

12. Why do you think the men left, from the oldest to the youngest? Was that order significant?

The oldest had the most to be guilty for so their consciences convicted them. The younger were more zealous to uphold the law so hung on, but even they were convicted by their own sins.

13. Put yourself in the woman's shoes after Jesus talked to her at the end. Emotionally, how do you think she must have felt? Why would she feel that way?

Relieved, overjoyed, unworthy of such grace, overcome with emotion & gratitude ...

14. Have you ever been in a place where you have felt what the woman must have felt? If you are willing to, would you share that with the group. What did you learn about God through that experience?

15. Are there any sins / habits / addictions that you honestly doubt that even God can set people free from? Why do you struggle with believing this: that they can be set free?

This could lead to interesting discussion. Focus in on the fact that there is nothing God cannot forgive us for or set us free from!

16. The speaker talked about relational brokenness. What are some examples of that you can think of? Have you ever suffered from brokenness in these areas? Do you think God can bring healing and freedom to you?

17. What is the main message from this story that you take away for yourself?

### **PRAYER TIME:**

Close by praying for each other, especially lifting up needs that may have been shared during the course of the discussion. It might be a good suggestion to divide up into groups of men together and women together, and if your group is large, perhaps into smaller groups of about three. Agree ahead, on a time to come together again after prayer, to close your Life group meeting.

