

John 7:53 — 8:11

Nothing is more humiliating than being caught in an act of disobedience! Whether it's a child with his hand in the cookie jar or an adult driving over the speed limit, we all know the sinking feeling of being caught. We also know the desperation of wanting to be forgiven.

G R O U P DISCUSSION:

Which is harder for you:
to forgive or to seek forgiveness? Why?

P E R S O N A L R E F L E C T I O N:

Think of a time when you hurt someone and that person was willing to forgive you. How did it feel to be forgiven?

In John 8 a woman is caught in the most awkward of situations—the very act of adultery. The way Jesus responds to her may surprise you. Read *John 7:53—8:11*.

1. Unlock some of the emotional background of this encounter. How do you think the woman feels when she is publicly accused?
Caught in Adultery
What emotions grip the woman's accusers?
2. What would you have done if you had been part of the crowd that looked on?
3. How do you feel when someone exposes a sin or failure in your life?
4. While it is obvious that the woman is guilty, what elements of a setup can you find in this situation?
5. In your opinion, what does Jesus write in the dirt?
6. The Pharisees and teachers boasted loudly about how good and holy they were. Why do you think they leave rather than stone the woman (vv. 7-9)?
7. How would you describe Jesus' attitude toward the woman (vv. 10-11)? 32 *John*
8. Do you think Jesus is condoning the woman's sin by not condemning her? Explain.
9. If you were the woman, how would you feel as you left Jesus' presence?
10. How do you usually respond when you fail?
11. What can we learn from this passage about Jesus' attitude toward us, even when we feel awful about ourselves?
12. What does this account teach us about forgiving and accepting others?
Thank God for his willingness to forgive you. Ask him to cultivate a spirit of forgiveness in your relationships with others.

Now or Later

Focus on someone you need to forgive or from whom you need to seek forgiveness. Plan a strategy to approach that person with grace and humility. Ask someone older or wiser in the Lord to give you some guidance and to pray for your endeavour to resolve a difficult situation.