

Facilitator:

1. Open with Prayer
2. Welcome any newcomers
3. Give a five-minute review of the sermon using Peppy's sermon notes.

Facilitator:

Please don't feel you have to cover every question. They become increasingly deeper and more thoughtful toward the end. It may help to highlight questions you want to be sure to cover, depending on the dynamics of your group and the time available. Try to keep your discussion to an hour and a half at the most.

CONNECT Group study questions, John 8:1-11

Title: Drop Your Rocks

The small man
Builds cages for everyone
He knows.
While the sage,
Who has to duck his head
When the moon is low,
Keeps dropping keys all night long
For the
Beautiful
Rowdy
Prisoners.
~hafiz

In the story we are about to read, small men, who built cages for everyone, caged a woman and tried to encage a sage—Jesus. They dropped their rocks, and for the beautiful, rowdy, imprisoned woman, Jesus dropped a key. Don't fail to catch the key Jesus drops for you.

Facilitator: Have the group read aloud and together the story recorded in John 8:1-11. If some in your group don't have a Bible with them, encourage them to look on with someone who does. If you can, run off copies to pass out to the group.

Question: Who were the scribes and pharisees in Jewish society at this time? Why were they testing Jesus?

Question: Who was the woman who was “caught in adultery”? Although the story doesn’t say, we all have an idea in our mind’s eye. What picture comes to mind? Describe the scene as if you were a movie director.

Question: How did they catch her in the act of adultery? Peppy explained that stoning for adultery was almost never—if ever—carried out because it was so difficult to prove, requiring the corroboration of multiple witnesses. Again, set the scene from your imagination how you suppose they pulled this off.

Question: What was the trap the scribes and pharisees used to try to trip Jesus? Did it require forethought and planning on their part? What did they overlook? **Facilitator:** They failed to see their own sinfulness.

Question: Read Matthew 7:1-5—*“Judge not, that you be not judged. For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you. Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when there is the log in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.”*

Clearly there are times when judgement is needed. Some call it discernment. In light of this verse, how would you approach a fellow Christian about his or her sin? **Facilitator:** Don’t let this question go before someone says the approach should include personal confession and repentance. Without acknowledgment of our own sinfulness—log in the eye—we are no different than the hypocritical scribes and pharisees.

Question: Read John 3:17—*“For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”* And read Romans 8:1-2 *“There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.”* When Jesus sent the woman away saying, “Go, and sin no more,” isn’t it unreasonable to think

that she never committed another sin the rest of her life? How do the verses we just read answer this question?