

# CALVARY CHAPEL COSTA MESA

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## – COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE –

### Jesus Encounters Series

### *“Jesus & The Woman Who was a Sinner” – John 8:1-12*

#### FELLOWSHIP

Television and movies are typically the way most get their impressions about what a court room is like. Whether it's a cinematic thriller based on a novel or a reality show where the judge is playing to the cameras, neither represent well the tediousness and routine that court brings to solving people's pain or disputes. Hopefully you haven't had to participate in family court, there is not much "family" in it. Rather, it is an assembly line of broken relationships that have reached the point where only a higher power can bring resolution. The environment, the evidence and the judge quickly remove all pretenses and reveal everybody has a propensity to sin. But what is most revealing is that the judge in his seasoned experience is rarely surprised. Judgements usually divide in a way that is as close to fair as you can get, but both sides feel like they've won and lost at the same time. Jesus, in this story of John eight, shows how being the light of the world results in assessments and judgements that are not only just, but also compassionate. While the Law of Moses patrols ones behavior, God is the magistrate of the heart. These religious leaders weren't really interested in this woman or securing a verdict, they were just using her shame to challenge Jesus' authority and character. With wisdom that surpasses even that of Solomon, Christ not only exposes their moral fault and hypocrisy, but in the same proceedings, he absolves her guilt and rehabilitates her life. When we guide people to Jesus, their guilt might initially make them fear being shamed, but when they meet him they find out that "God did not send his Son into the world to condemn it, but to save the world through Him." (Oh, and in case you do find yourself in court before a judge, it's never good idea to challenge him. ; )

#### READ & DISCUSS

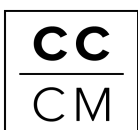
This chapter in John continues the stories of Jesus' encounters with those seeking. While this woman was brought against her will, she found what she had always been looking for. Read together as a group John 8:1-12 out loud, and then discuss how we can apply this passage to our lives. Here is our key passage from this section:

**John 8:10-12** *“When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the woman, He said to her, “Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?” She said, “No one, Lord.” And Jesus said to her, “Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more.” Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.”*

- Jesus was leading a devotional that morning on the temple mount when they brought the woman in order to confront Jesus. As the sun was rising over the Mount of Olives, the long shadows against the Kidron Valley were starting to disappear. What are some of the passages you remember that describe Jesus and/or God as light? What does this mean? How has the Lord been a light to you and what darkness vanished under His presence?
- Some have used this passage as a proof text to show that Jesus didn't believe in capital punishment even though the Law called for this in cases of adultery. Why would this story be a good place to argue that or not? Read Deuteronomy 22:22-24. What aspect or condition from the Law was missing in this story from John 8? Why did God even institute capital punishment? What are your views on capital punishment today? How can we reconcile it with Christianity? (Read Romans 13:1-3 for help.)
- Tolerance is a concept that has been thrown back and forth between political or philosophical sides. Both claiming they practice it, but neither being able to reconcile with the other. Was Jesus being tolerant with this woman's sin? What is the difference between tolerance and forgiveness? How could forgiveness be a better way to reconcile differences? What is the means for forgiveness? How could an attitude of forgiveness affect our witness and outreach?

#### PRAY

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**Community Group Discussion Guide**

*Based on Pastor Brian Brodersen's message on June 18, 2017.*

*Watch again here:*

<https://cccm.com/teaching/jesus-encounters/video/jesus-and-the-woman-who-was-a-sinner/>