



WEEKLY STUDY

Week Five

Pastor Jacob shared the breaking open story of the woman caught in adultery in John chapter 8. It's the story of her opportunity for new life. Jesus didn't condemn her, and no longer could her accusers cast blame when they came face to face with their own sin. Jesus invited the woman into a new life free from sin.

During these weeks leading up to Easter, we are intentionally seeking a deeper awareness of God. To help with that, you are invited to prepare your heart for Easter by taking part in weekly prayer and journaling using the Breaking Open Journal. [Download it today!](#)

If you are studying with your Providence Small Group, you can share from daily readings as well as the additional questions at the bottom of this guide. If you would like to get connected to a Providence Small Group visit prov.church/signup and click on Small Groups.

Find a time each day to read the passage of scripture. Follow the daily prayer prompt and then pray this prayer written by spiritual director Sally Sharpe:

God, you call us to be holy because you are holy, but we confess we struggle with pride and self-promotion. Help us to follow Christ's example and humble ourselves, trusting you to lift us up. Amen.

DAILY STUDY

MONDAY: JOHN 8.2-11

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."

- This is a challenging and grace-filled story of how Jesus changes lives. To the teachers of the law and the Pharisees, he represents a challenge to the status quo, to the woman caught in adultery he represents grace and mercy. How is each person in the story invited to change? How has an encounter with Jesus invited you to change? How would you respond if you were observing this scene?
- *Pray for less condemnation and more life-change in your daily living.*

TUESDAY: JOHN 8.6-8

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.

- There are many theories as to what Jesus might have written on the ground. The result of his act was to slow down the scene. The crowd was motivated by a sense of righteousness and a desire to trick Jesus. They were moving full-steam ahead. In pausing to stoop and write in the dust, Jesus set up the woman's moment of forgiveness. Jesus is the sign of God stooping in the dust of creation to offer us forgiveness. When was the last time God used you to diffuse a tense situation that was about to get out of control? When have you received forgiveness?
- *Pray for a calm presence in heightened situations. Pray for opportunities to point to a new life in Jesus.*

WEDNESDAY: JOHN 8.9-10

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."

- Jesus pointed out that we are all in the same boat. We all need grace. The accusers weren't up for apologies yet, but they had a new found fear, respect, or maybe even some level of integrity to walk away and end their accusations. Are there situations where you realized you needed to put down your proverbial stones of condemnation and listen to the story of another person?
- *Pray for less condemnation and for more grace in your story.*

THURSDAY: HEBREWS 12.12-14

Therefore, strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees.¹³ "Make level paths for your feet," so that the lame may not be disabled, but rather healed.¹⁴ Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.

- This is the result of holiness—the result of “Go and leave your life of sin.” Others will see Jesus in your changed life. The pursuit of holiness is striking and attractive to a hurting world that is caught up in finger pointing and condemnation of one another. As followers of Jesus, we can model a different way—a way that leads to healing. What does it mean for you to “strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees” in pursuit of holiness?
- *Pray for a level path in front of you today...a path that leads to healing, peace, and holiness.*

FRIDAY: ROMANS 6.22

But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life.

- Living a life of holiness can sound like an impossible feat. The woman caught in adultery was given the chance to imagine a life completely different than the one she had been living. She may have had the courage to imagine it simply because someone (Jesus) saw beyond her sin. When are you most likely to need a reminder that you have been set free from sin? What does it mean to become a slave of God?
- *Thank God for the freedom you have in Christ and, being bound to Christ, you may live a life of holiness.*

SATURDAY: LUKE 1.69-75

He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David⁷⁰ (as he said through his holy prophets of long ago),⁷¹ salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us—⁷² to show mercy to our ancestors and to remember his holy covenant,⁷³ the oath he swore to our father Abraham:⁷⁴ to rescue us from the hand of our enemies, and to enable us to serve him without fear⁷⁵ in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

- Our ability to pursue holiness is completely dependent upon God. God lifted up a new kind of king in Jesus. God offered salvation and a way to return to the covenant He made with God’s people. Because of His acts of great love towards us, we can serve God without fear in holiness all of our days. Is it difficult to believe that you can practice holiness? Why?
- *Pray with gratitude to God who made a way in the wilderness for us to return to Him.*

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

Pastor Jacob shared these words from Titus 2:

For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. ¹² It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, ¹³ while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

How does the grace of God teach how to say “no” to ungodliness and worldly passions? How often do you ponder the “blessed hope” mentioned in Titus? What does the appearing glory of God in Jesus Christ look like in your imagination?