



## LESSON 64

3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Principle:** Judgment belongs to God.

**Bible Character(s):** Jesus and a sinful woman

**Scripture Reference:** John 8:5-11



**PERSONAL PREPARATION:** Before this weekend, read through John 8:5-11. As you read, ask yourself which person you represent in this story? Are you the one wanting to cast stones, or are you the sinner? So often we forget our own sin and the grace given to us, and we focus on the sins of others. We are quick to judge others and point out their sins, but slow to recognize our own sin. Judgment is not in our hands; God is the only one who has the right to judge. We are free to forgive and show mercy to those who sin because God has done that for us. Spend some time thinking of ways you can extend grace to others and allow God to be the judge.

### PLUG IN TIME - 5-10 minutes as the kids begin to arrive

Arrive early to check the supplies in the bin and review the lesson. Write today's principle on the whiteboard. Remember to greet all campers upon arrival; meet their parents; welcome and introduce all visitors. Create a welcoming cabin for all campers!

### Play Simon Says

Play Simon Says. Some ideas for instructions to tell the kids are as follows: touch your toes, ears, nose, elbows; pat your head, rub your tummy, flap your arms like a bird; do five jumping jacks; reach for the sky; turn around in a circle; turn and greet a friend; shake a friend's hand; meet a new friend; blink your eyes and tap your nose; hop on one foot; skip around; whisper your name; quack like a duck; meow like a cat; recite our Bible verse; whisper to your friend, "Jesus loves you;" hop like a bullfrog; waddle like a penguin; etc.

After playing, say to the campers "Wow! You all did well. We played this game several times. Almost all of us forgot to listen for 'Simon says' at some point during the game. This game is silly and fun, and it helps us remember that we all make mistakes. We will talk more about that after Big Group." End with reading Matthew 6:14 to your campers.



## **BIG GROUP TIME - 35-40 minutes**

As you line up, remind campers we are going to have fun as an entire Camp Grace group! We are going to live out GRACE by **Glorifying God** through worship, **Respecting All Leaders**, and **Accepting Responsibility** to listen with attentive ears, minds, and hearts – fully **Celebrating Christ** with passion! We should **Encourage Others** to do the same, by not distracting them from their worship of God.

### **The Bridge to Small Group**

Today we will look at ways we judge others, and we will see what we should do when we are tempted to judge and cast stones.

## **Small Group Time - 25-30 minutes**

### **Getting Started**

If your cabin did well in Big Group, acknowledge it. If not, take a couple of minutes to talk about how they can do better next time.

What did you learn in Big Group? What were the two staff members doing when they were talking about the Camp Counselor Kim? (Judging her, casting stones like the Pharisees wanted to do.) What did they learn? (We are all sinners; we should not judge others; judgmental or unkind words are like throwing stones.)

Last week we talked about forgiveness. What did we learn about forgiveness? (We learned that we are to forgive others, just as God has forgiven us.) How many times are we supposed to forgive someone who has sinned against us? (Jesus explained to Peter that there is no limit on how many times we should forgive another's sin against us.) We should always have a forgiving heart towards others because God promises to forgive us too, if we ask Him.

Today we are going to expand on this idea of forgiveness, and see how it ties in with judging others. We are going to read from the book of John to see what Jesus has to say about judgment when the Pharisees bring a sinful woman to Him.

Let's begin reading the Bible in John 8 [NLT].

### **John 8:5-6a**

*5 The law of Moses says to stone her. What do you say?"*

*6 They were trying to trap him into saying something they could use against him..."*

The Pharisees were trying to trap Jesus by asking him tough questions. They did not believe that Jesus is God. They wanted to show everyone that He was not God so they tried to find ways to question Him so that they could point out that He was wrong. Let's continue reading the Bible.

## John 8:6b-8

*“...but Jesus stooped down and wrote in the dust with his finger. 7 They kept demanding an answer, so he stood up again and said, “All right, but let the one who has never sinned throw the first stone!” 8 Then he stooped down again and wrote in the dust.*

## Sand and Stones



The purpose is to focus on our sins and our need for grace.

### Supplies:

Sandpaper (1 sheet per session)

Black marker (in general supply bin)

Read Matthew 6:14 to your campers.

*“If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you.”*

Use the marker to write out “Forgive as Christ forgave us” on the sand paper. Ask the campers what they think that means. Use the white board to write down some of our common sins of the heart – pride, selfishness, anger, bitterness. Ask the campers if any of them could throw a stone at the woman based off of what Jesus said, that only people who do not sin are able to judge. Allow time for response. Then read Romans 3:23, “For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard.” (We do not know what Jesus actually wrote in the dust, but writing on the sand paper is supposed to help the campers understand that God wants us to forgive others as Christ forgave us.)

## Tie It Together



How are you like the Pharisees in this story? (Allow responses.) Do you talk about how bad other people are when they sin? Do you see someone sin and think that you would never do that? (Allow responses.) Would you be able to throw a stone at this woman? Are you without sin? (Allow responses.) We are all sinners. None of us could pick up one of the stones and throw it at this woman. We do not have any right to judge others. Only God has the right to judge. God wants us to forgive others as Christ forgave us.

Let’s continue reading the Bible.

## John 8:9-11

*9 When the accusers heard this, they slipped away one by one, beginning with the oldest, until only Jesus was left in the middle of the crowd with the woman. 10 Then Jesus stood up again and said to the woman, “Where are your accusers? Didn’t even one of them condemn you?”*

*11 “No, Lord,” she said.*

*And Jesus said, “Neither do I. Go and sin no more.”*

Jesus forgave this woman. He told her to “go and sin no more.” Jesus is the only one who could have thrown a stone at this woman because He had never sinned. Jesus could have punished her. Jesus could have judged her because He is without sin, yet He forgave her. She deserved punishment for her sin, but He chose to show her mercy instead of showing judgment.

## Judge



The purpose is to look at ways we judge others.

### Supplies:

Judgment situations (2 per bin)

What does it mean to judge someone? In Big Group, the staff member said, “Your words about Kim are full of judgment.” What do we say that communicates judgment? Read each judgment situation out loud and ask the campers how each situation shows judgment.

## Tie It Together



When the Pharisees were judging the woman who had sinned, Jesus reminded them of their own sin. When we find we are tempted to judge others, we need to focus on our sin and our need for a savior. God alone can judge because He is perfect. James 4:12 says, “God alone, who gave the law, is the Judge. He alone has the power to save or to destroy. So what right do you have to judge your neighbor?”

## Reflecting Stones



The purpose is to focus on our sins before looking at others.

### Supplies:

Rock (1 per camper)

Foil (1 box per bin)

Verse tag – Matthew 6:14 (1 per camper)

Tape

Have the campers cover their rocks with foil (shiny side out). Then have the campers use a small piece of tape to stick the verse to their rocks. Go over the verse a couple times.

## Tie It Together



This reflective rock should remind us that we should remember our own sin and the grace that God has given us before judging others. When we see other people sin, we need to remember that God is the judge. We are just as sinful as the people around us. We all deserve death because we have all sinned. Jesus died so that we would not have to be punished for our sin. It is not up to us to judge someone's sins. We are to forgive those who have sinned, not judge them. If God can forgive us

and show us mercy, then we should also be forgiving and merciful towards others.

## **Wrapping It Up**

The woman in our story today deserved death because she had sinned. We have also sinned; we all deserve death. Jesus died for our sins. God shows us forgiveness and mercy through Jesus. We are not in a position to judge others because Jesus is the only one who can judge. As we see sin in others, we need to recognize our own sin and ask God for forgiveness instead of focusing on other's sins. We can forgive others of their sin and show mercy because God demonstrates that forgiveness and mercy towards those who trust in and follow Him.

## **Prayer Time**

Spend a few minutes in prayer to close small group time. Thank God for showing us how to forgive others. Ask Him to help us remember our own sin, instead of judging others.



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