

STUDY NOTES

THE WAY AND THE WORDS OF JESUS A SERIES *at* NEW CITY CHURCH

www.newcityphx.com/sermons

The following content is based on the message “Did That Just Happen?” on 3/11/18 at New City Church in Phoenix, AZ. The following is not meant to be a full synopsis but rather a brief look at the main ideas. To use this Study Guide effectively you must listen to the message found at <http://newcityphx.com/sermons/>.

Leaders using these study notes for group study and reflection should read the Biblical text thoroughly before beginning, using this resource as assistance and not relying solely on this material for insight. We encourage all leaders to pray and ask the Spirit for revelation as they lead their respective community groups.

PRAYER

Pray and ask God to lead the discussion as everyone gets to share.

SCRIPTURE: JOHN 8:1-11

WHAT JUST HAPPENED?

Jesus’s followers traveled with him and got to watch him work. They got to see all of the unbelievable moments, probably asking the question, “Did that just happen?”. Diseases were healed, storms were calmed, and people personally just encountered Jesus. Lives were changed. The religious leaders didn’t like all of the popularity that Jesus was gaining, so they sought after ways to entrap him.

- *Do you have any “Did that just happen moments?” with Jesus? If so, share one of them with the group.*

These religious leaders would do anything to entrap Jesus—including abusing, embarrassing, and humiliating this woman caught in the act of adultery.

- *How has your experience with judgmental church people influenced how you view God?*

JESUS STOOPS DOWN TO US

Jesus stooped down the dirt and wrote something with his finger. We don’t know what he wrote, but we know that Jesus stooped down to where she was. He was

willing to drop down into the dirt with her to meet her where she was at. He stood up and said to this woman’s accusers, “Whoever has not sinned can throw the first stone.” When he dropped down to write in the dirt again, all her accusers left.

**God of the universe just got down in the dirt with her.
That’s our Jesus.**

- *How has the God of the universe met you where you are at?*

OUR ACCUSER

While we may or may not have obvious accusers, we have the ultimate accuser telling us that we are condemned. Satan—the Accuser—wants us feel shame for our past. He wants to drag us into the dirt, abuse us, and leave us there to sit in shame.

**Shame is the language of our accuser.
Grace is the language of Jesus.**

- *In what ways is the Accuser condemning you today?*
- *Where do you need the God of the universe to meet you?*

Jesus didn’t condemn her for her actions—even though he could have done so. He does confront her sin though. He tells her to “Go and sin no more.”

**Bad news: the wages of sin is death
Good news: the free gift of God is eternal life.
- Romans 3:23-24**

- *How does Jesus’s mercy to us encourage us to “go and sin no more”?*
- *Pray with each other that you’d feel the mercy of God in your lives.*