

## Small Group Questions | Dropping Stones | John 8:1-11



Relationships can be difficult and challenging. Sometimes they end "happily ever after" and other times they end more like a train wreck. Today we're going to study the story of a woman who made a bad relational choice. She might have made this choice once, several times, or for several years. We don't know all the details, but she ends up getting caught. Her bad choice puts her in a place that she never imagined she would be. Today's story involves the religious leaders treating an adulterous woman with no compassion. In John 8 we're going to see how Jesus's reaction to her differs from the religious leaders. Listen in as Pastor Neal Benson teaches us how the compassion of Jesus invites us to drop our stones.

1. Relationships can be amazing, challenging, fulfilling, and difficult. When we add romantic feelings, things can get complicated at times. Share about a time when you had to navigate a unique situation in any type of relationship you're involved in.
2. **Read John 8:1-2.** Jesus was in the habit of teaching the people about the truth of God in a way they understood (See Matthew 4:23, Mark 6:6, and Luke 13:10). What have you learned from the teaching of Jesus and how has it changed you?
3. One of the things the Pharisees tried to do in this situation was to trap Jesus with a question. **Read John 8:3-6.** The Law required that two or three people witness a sin like this. What would motivate the Pharisees to treat a woman in such a manner?
4. If Jesus condemns the woman, He is not viewed as compassionate. If Jesus frees the woman, He negates the Law. Is there a way for us, in our current culture, to keep a balance between compassion and following the commands of God?
5. **Read John 8:7-8.** It appears that Jesus gives the crowd the freedom to throw stones as long as they know they are also condemned in their sin. **Read Matthew 7:1-6** and talk about how to be better at removing sin from your own life.
6. **Read John 8:9-11.** As people saw the words of Jesus written in the sand, they began to leave. Romans 3:23 says that we have all sinned. Following the Law of Moses, Jesus didn't condemn this woman but invited her to leave her life of sin. Share with your group when you trusted Jesus and how that changed your life.
7. For Jesus to offer the mercy that He offered to this woman it meant He would have to climb on the cross to pay for our sins. (See Luke 23:26-49.) How can we share the great love of Jesus with people in our lives who need mercy?
8. Close your time in prayer. Pray for wisdom to know how to show love and mercy to those around you.