

Grow Group Summary and Discussion Guide

Speaker: Pastor Tony
Series: According to John
Chapter 8

Summary for Leader:

- Focus was the story of the woman caught in adultery, John 8:1-11
- We talked about the importance of keeping separate the things the bible says directly, the implications we infer, and speculation we may have.

Said Directly	What seems Implied	Speculation
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• John 8:3 “this woman was caught in the act of adultery.”• John 8:3 They put her in front of the crowd.• John 8:6 They were trying to trap him• John 8:6 Jesus stooped down and wrote in the sand• John 8:9 They slipped away one by one, beginning with the oldest• John 8:11 Neither do I (condemn you)• John 8:11 Go and sin no more	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Some level of undress• The guy goes unpunished• The Pharisee’s broke the very law they are charging her with• Jesus’s lowers himself	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Elaborate Set Up• Previously ignored issue• What Jesus wrote:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Wrote the sins of the crowd○ Wrote Leviticus 20:10○ Made a line in the sand○ The point of him writing was a metaphor

- We talked about how as Christians we want to both follow Jesus’s teachings and his actions- as we don’t just want to learn what he taught, but how he lived
- From the story we pulled out the importance of his posture, how he used his position to protect others, and how he balanced Mercy with “Sin no more” in how we also interact with others
- Tony finished by talking about how Jesus often combined giving mercy to others alongside the call to “go and sin no more”, not out of legalism, but love.

Grow Group Questions:

- 1) Today we are continuing to go through the Gospel of John, focusing on Chapter 8. Have someone pray as you start your time together.
- 2) Read through John 8 1-11.
- 3) What stood out to you from the text?
 - a) (If you think your group would like the question) How do you picture this story? What speculation would you pick as most likely?
- 4) In the Sermon, Tony talked about the difference between what the bible actually says, what we can infer, and then what speculations we make.
 - a) For this story, do you agree with how Tony separated the categories of what we know, what's implied, and speculation? For example, do you think something Tony put in "implied" is actually so obvious it should be in the "said" category? Or, that something Tony put in implied should actually be moved to speculation?
 - b) What are the dangers of treating speculation or inferences as something directly said to be True? Can you think of any examples when you or someone you know treated speculation as biblical truth?
- 5) Tony talked about the importance of Jesus's posture, both in this story and others. How can we carry ourselves in a way that would reflect Christ?
- 6) Tony talked about the importance of Jesus using his position to protect others, and suggested that we all have positions to speak up no matter our titles or status. Do you think the "principle of the second voice" is true? (IE that usually the group doesn't follow the lead of the first person who speaks, but instead the second person who responds to what they say)
- 7) Tony talked about how Jesus found a balance between mercy and "go and sin no more" that led people to true repentance. What are some examples in the bible of this?
 - a) In finding this balance, do you tend more towards the biting your tongue/showing mercy side, or the calling out/Go and sin no more side? What would it look like for you to move more towards the right balance?
- 8) (This question is pretty deep, based on your groups familiarity/comfort with each other, maybe just make it a reflection question, and not an out loud question.)

Tony challenged us to think about the fact that Jesus frequently combined the "Neither do I condemn" with "Go and sin no more". Which message do you think you personally need to focus on? The fact that God has overwhelming love for you no matter what you've done, and you are loved and accepted? Or the call to Go and sin no more, Not sin less, not stop sinning in the "actually" bad ways, but to earnestly seek a life without sin, even while knowing this side of heaven it is a goal we can not fully attain.