

Sermon Series: SECOND CHANCES

Discipleship Phrase: God Never Gives Up on Me

Big Idea for Series: Second Chances is based on character studies of people in Scripture who experienced God's grace and whose lives were transformed as a result.

Abiding *[grow as a disciple yourself]* Sin. No one likes to talk about sin. Sometimes, sin makes us feel blamed, unworthy, judged, or ashamed. We often keep our sin in the dark, we don't tell people about our sin, or we excuse our sin. Christ doesn't speak about judging or blaming us when we confess our sin, but He speaks of purifying us. As you prepare to lead this week, meditate on this Scripture.

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us. -- **1 John 1:8-10***

For the Apprentice *[opportunities for the apprentice to shepherd the group throughout the week]* Confession is a tough discipline to practice, but it is worthwhile to build an environment where people can feel safe enough to share what they are struggling with. Ask your apprentice if they feel your Small Group would be a safe place to practice confession. If not, talk about what needs to change in order to foster that environment. If your group is a safe place, have your apprentice lead your group in a time of confession and prayer. Pray for healing in the relationships between God and us, and also for healing between the people who have wronged and been wronged.

God-Stories *[you are encouraged to invite everyone to share God-Stories from the previous week]* A God-Story is an undeniable encounter/experience with God that creates an impact or breakthrough in a person's day to day life.

BackgroundPLUS® *[a deeper dive into this week's story]*

- What did Jesus do when he stooped to the sand? No one can tell you what He wrote. Many have wondered, there are many legends, and they are all allusive. What He scribbled is not known, but his attitude was everything. It was the attitude of attention to something else and refusal to satisfy His questioners. It was the attitude of dismissal. They would not let Him alone. They were determined to have an answer; and so, John records that Jesus responded with **All right, but let the one who has never sinned throw the first stone!**
- The command mentioned, "*The law of Moses says to stone her*", is not to be found in the Old Testament.
- Jesus does not a wink at sin; He addresses it. She is not a victim but a willing participant. There was a pattern of sin, **Go and sin no more**, or, **Go now and leave your life of sin.**
- **The Bible Project** - [John 1-12](#)



Week 2 Topic: Caught, But Not Condemned

Takeaway: *Think you don't deserve a second chance from God? Remind yourself, you didn't deserve the first one either.* The restoration and redemption of broken lives are central to the Gospel. If you've messed up, need help, and are looking for hope, welcome to the club.

Welcome / Open in Prayer

Introductions: *[Share the topic & takeaway this week from above]*

- **Review from Last Week:** *[Build in accountability to living it out]*
- **God-Stories:** *[See Leader Page for description for God-Stories]*
- **Review the Guidelines:** *[Share the guidelines to set the rails for group time]*

Ask a Hook Question: *[A thought-provoking question to get the group focused]*

- Share a time you did something wrong as a child, and you were caught. What happened?

Share Background for the Story: *[Provide context to the story from the Bible]*

On the last day of the Feast of Tabernacles, Jesus pronounced His great call, challenging human thirst. He stood and shouted to the crowds, **anyone who is thirsty may come to Me! Anyone who believes in Me may come and drink!** Everyone returned to their own house. Jesus travelled to the mount of Olives. **Early the next morning**, He came back to the Courts of the Women in the Temple area. He again assumed the position of the Teacher. The crowds gathered around Him. As they listened to Him, there was a stir, a movement in the crowd...*and now the story from God's Word.*

Share the Story: [John 8:1-11](#) *[Volunteer from last week shares the story]*

Rebuild the Story *[Invites everyone to engage]*

Read from Scripture *[Read out loud to see if anything was added or omitted]*

Discussion Questions *[Dive deeper, beyond the surface]*

1. Why do you think the oldest were the first to drop their stones and walk away?
2. Why didn't Jesus condemn her since she had sinned?
3. In what ways have you allowed a past mistake to define who you are?
4. What's one thing about you that you would like to change and why?

Assign Next Week's Story: [John 21:1-19](#)

Prayer Requests: *[Record, share & follow up throughout the week]*

Closing Prayer: *[Ask openly for a volunteer]*

Inviting people into meaningful relationship with God and each other

