

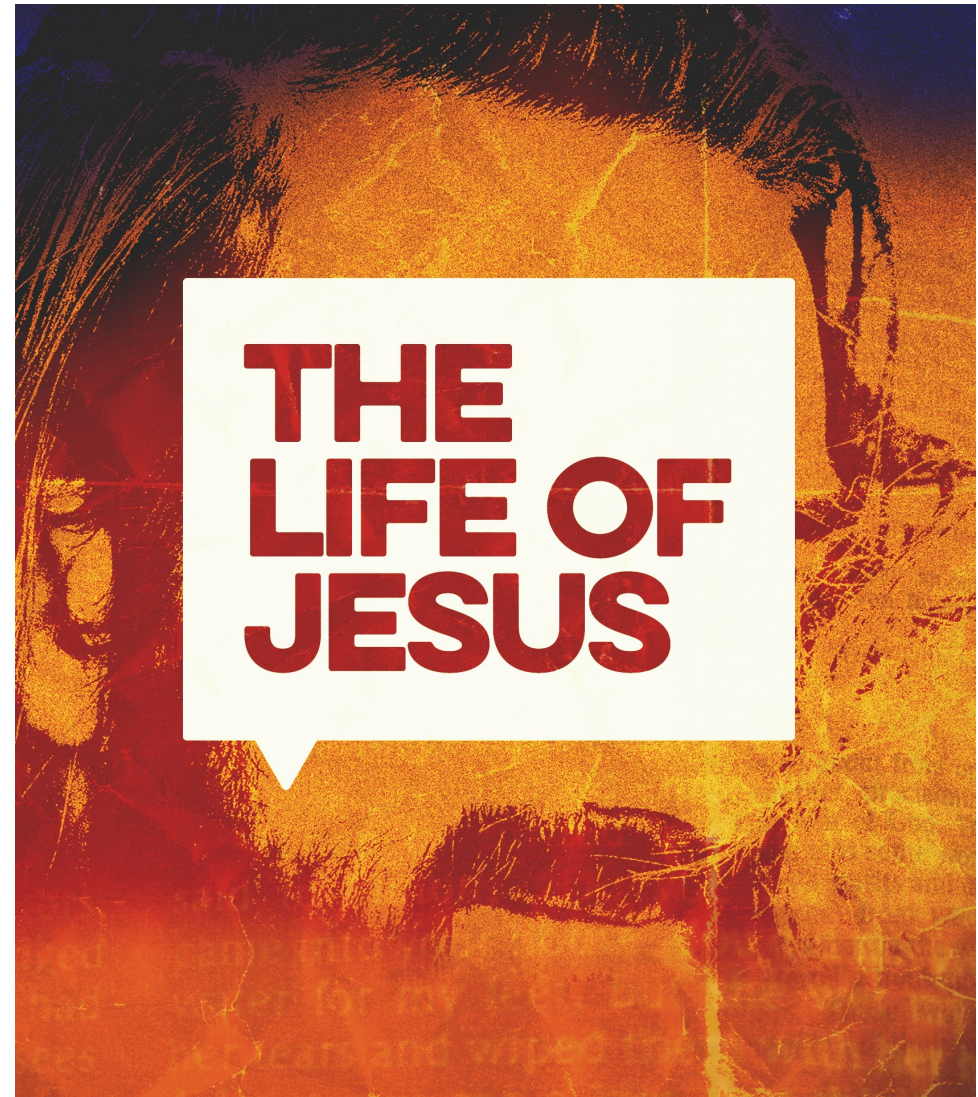
7. What is the core message of this scripture in your life? How does it apply to your life?

PRAYER

Lord, in all kinds of ways, I need your grace and your truth. I need your truth to help me face the judgmental attitude I can have towards others. I need your truth to challenge the sin in me. I need your truth to point towards God's way for my life. And I need your grace to forgive, redeem, and restore me to a right relationship with you. I need your grace to call me to a new life with you. I need your grace to make me a child of the living God. Thank you, Lord, for your grace and your truth in my life. In Jesus' name. Amen.

SERMON SERIES STUDY GUIDE

NORTH: Feb. 18 | **SOUTH:** Feb. 25 | **CHAPEL:** March 4



JESUS FORGIVES A GUILTY WOMAN

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This study guide was written by the Pastors at Hope Lutheran Church in Fargo, ND. Find this resource and others at [FARGOHOPE.ORG/RESOURCES](https://fargo-hope.org/resources)

JESUS FORGIVES A GUILTY WOMAN

READ: John 8:1-11

One day when Jesus was teaching people about God and their relationship with him, a woman was brought before him because she had been caught in the act of adultery. Her accusers wanted Jesus to pass judgment, which according to Jewish law meant she would be stoned to death. (Leviticus 20:10) Jesus replied to her accusers, “Ok, you are right. Stone her as the law requires but whoever casts the first stone must be without sin.” The woman’s accusers began to drop their stones and walk away. Jesus looked at the woman and said to her, “Your accusers no longer condemn you, neither do I. Now go and sin no more!”

As the bearer of God’s grace and God’s truth, Jesus reflected God’s heart in this encounter rather than taking sides with either the accusers or the woman. Jesus met the accusers where they needed to be challenged. They brought the woman, but not the man “caught” in the act of adultery. The accusers were using the law of God inappropriately for their judgmental purposes, and Jesus, as the bearer of God’s truth, called them on it.

He also spoke a word of grace into their lives. “Look in the mirror. If the law really matters to you, you will see you have sin in your life that needs God’s forgiveness, just like this woman you are accusing. If you see that, you will drop your rocks.”

Jesus also met the woman where she needed to be challenged, with grace and truth. He spoke a word of grace, “I do not condemn you,” but he also spoke a word of truth, “Go and sin no more.” In other words, stop doing what you’re doing and embrace this opportunity for a new start I am giving you today. The grace and truth of Jesus’ teachings were both challenging and life giving for this guilty woman and her accusers. In the same way, his grace and truth are challenging and life giving for YOU!

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. Who do you tend to side with in this interaction, the woman or accusers? Why?
2. Why is it so easy for us to pass judgment on others rather than look in the mirror and face our own sin?
3. How is Jesus’ response to the woman, “I do not condemn you, now go and sin no more,” both a challenge of facing the truth and a word of grace pointing her towards new life?
4. What does it mean that Jesus is a bearer of the truth of God?
5. What does it mean that Jesus is a bearer of the grace of God?
6. Why do we need both God’s grace and truth?