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# Self

## Forgiven

### MATERIALS + PREPARATION

- Bibles, pens, and sticky notes.
- Screen with an internet connection **[OPEN IT]:** [“Death of YOLO” by Jefferson Bethke - www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kg0UfweQQyc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kg0UfweQQyc).
- Enough Styrofoam cups and Sharpie markers for each person in your group. Aluminum pie pans and acetone (commonly sold as nail polish remover). Or alternatively, pie pans and sand. **[PRAY ABOUT IT]**



### Open It

- **Video:** Watch “Death of YOLO” by Jefferson Bethke together. The link can be found in the Materials + Preparation section.
- **Discussion:** Have you ever been in a situation where you felt helpless, when you made a mistake so big you thought it could never be fixed? Talk about a time like that and how you felt.
- **Introduction:** If you have ever seen a two-year-old grab a toy away from another child and yell, “Mine!” you understand we all sin from the time we can walk and talk. Ever since Adam and Eve ate the fruit in the Garden of Eden that God told them to avoid, people have disobeyed God and gone their own way. Sin affects every one of us — your grandmother who goes to church three times a week, your next-door neighbor, the convicted murderer in prison, and even pastors. We are *all* broken inside.

We often make excuses for our brokenness, or try to hide it. But somehow it always ends up coming to light when we least want it to! Today we are going to read about a time when Jesus met a woman whose brokenness went on display for the whole town - and almost ended in death.



### Talk About It

Read John 8:2-6.

- What was Jesus doing with the people in the temple courts? What time of day was it?
- How do you think the Pharisees and teachers of the law found out this woman was committing adultery?
- How would you feel if you were called out about something you did wrong in front of a whole crowd of people?

Read John 8:7-11.

- What did Jesus do when He heard the Pharisees? What do you think He was writing on the ground?
- What did Jesus say that made everyone start to leave?
- How would you feel if you were the woman who was being accused?
- Imagine that Jesus said His next words straight to you: “Neither do I condemn you. Now go and leave your life of sin.” How would this change — or not change — you?

**Read Romans 6:23** [MEMORY VERSE].

- What is the “payment” that we get from sin?
- Have you ever heard of somebody *actually* getting struck by lightning or dying of a heart attack after he or she sinned? Probably not ...
- So what kind of death do you think this means — physical death, or something else?
- What free gift does God offer us?



### Pray About It

**Note:** For this activity you will need to fill the pie pans with at least an inch of acetone. When you put one or more cups in the acetone, the cups should dissolve. For a simpler activity, simply bring pie plates or some other containers filled with at least an inch of sand. Instead of writing sins on cups with a Sharpie and watching them dissolve, they can write in the sand and then wipe away the words as a symbol of God’s forgiveness.

**Read 1 John 1:5-9.**

- We are going to do a simple activity that shows what God does for us when we confess our sins to Him.
- If you are comfortable, write a few of your sins on one of these Styrofoam cups with a Sharpie. If you don’t want to write down your sin, just think about them and write down an X or some other symbol to represent what you are thinking.
- Let’s take a moment to quietly confess our sin to God and ask for His forgiveness.
- Now one at a time, place your cup in these aluminum pie plates.
- What happened to your sin?
- Let’s spend about one minute with our eyes closed, just silently thinking about those words that Jesus spoke to the adulterous woman: “Neither do I condemn you. Now go and leave your life of sin.”
- After this minute, we will pray out loud and thank God for purifying and cleansing us from all our sins!



### Journal It

Write a thank-you note to Jesus for taking your sins away and making you clean.



### Bring It Home

- Memorize Romans 6:23.
- Watch this 2-minute reenactment: [“The Woman Caught in Adultery - www.youtube.com/watch?v=V1PkoPDbZJQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V1PkoPDbZJQ). Discuss how this woman must have felt when she was first brought before Jesus — and how the crowd felt about the woman. How do you think the woman felt after Jesus spoke? How did the crowd feel after they heard Jesus’ words?
- Go outside and choose a large-ish stone for each of you to paint (get enough for your kids, too, if they are old enough!). Wash off your stones and gather some paint and paintbrushes. Choose one or two meaningful words to paint on the stone (for example: “forgiven” or “sin no more”). While you are working, think about the difference between following a God who *condemns and judges* you versus following a God who *forgives and defends* you.
- Read Psalm 103 — especially verses 8 through 14.
  - How do these verses relate to the story of the woman accused of adultery (John 8:2-11)? How does God treat us?
  - What do you think it means to “fear” God? Does it mean to be afraid of God?
- Read Psalm 51 out loud as a prayer.

For the wages of sin is death, but  
the free gift of God is eternal life  
through Christ Jesus our Lord.

ROMANS 6:23

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