



## Family Lesson 64

**Principle:** Judgment belongs to God.

**Bible Character(s):** Jesus and a sinful woman

**Scripture Reference:** John 8:5-11

**1. Worship** - Choose your favorite songs from the [Spotify playlist](#) found on the curriculum resource page. Have fun, sing loudly, and follow along with the motions!

**2. Bible Lesson** - Read through the lesson with your family. The bold font is meant to be read aloud along with the Scripture references.

### Bible Lesson

As a family, play Simon Says. Some ideas for instructions to tell your child are as follows: touch your toes, ears, nose, elbows; pat your head, rub your tummy, flap your arms like a bird; do five jumping jacks; reach for the sky; turn around in a circle; blink your eyes and tap your nose; hop on one foot; skip around; whisper your name; quack like a duck; meow like a cat; whisper, “Jesus loves you;” hop like a bullfrog; waddle like a penguin; etc.

**Wow! You did well. We played this game several times and at some point during the game, we forgot to listen for “Simon says.” This game is silly and fun, and it helps us remember that we all make mistakes.** End with reading Matthew 6:14 to your child.

*“If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you.”*

**Last week, we talked about forgiveness. What did we learn about forgiveness?** (We learned that we are to forgive others, just as God has forgiven us.) **How many times are we supposed to forgive someone who has sinned against us?** (Jesus explained to Peter that there is no limit on

how many times we should forgive another’s sin against us.) **We should always have a forgiving heart towards others because God promises to forgive us too, if we ask him.**

**Today, we are going to expand on this idea of forgiveness and see how it ties in with judging others. We are going to read from the book of John to see what Jesus has to say about judgment when the Pharisees bring a sinful woman to him.**

**Let’s read from the Bible in John 8 [NLT].**

#### John 8:5-6a

*<sup>5</sup> The law of Moses says to stone her. What do you say?”*

*<sup>6</sup> They were trying to trap him into saying something they could use against him...”*

**The Pharisees are trying to trap Jesus by asking him tough questions. They do not believe that Jesus is God. They want to show everyone that he is not God, so they try to find ways to question him so that they can point out that he was wrong. Let’s continue reading the Bible.**

#### John 8:6b-8

*“...but Jesus stooped down and wrote in the dust with his finger. <sup>7</sup> They kept demanding an answer, so he stood up again and said, “All right, but let the one who has never sinned throw the first stone!”<sup>8</sup> Then he stooped down again and wrote in the dust.*

As a family, talk about what it means that we should “Forgive as Christ forgave us.” Discuss some of our common sins of the heart—pride, selfishness, anger, bitterness. Ask your child if they could throw a stone at the woman based off of what Jesus said, that only people who do not sin are able to judge. Then read Romans 3:23,

“For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard.” (We do not know what Jesus actually wrote in the dust, but God wants us to forgive others as Christ forgave us.)

**Remember the Pharisees? They think they keep all of the rules and that they are not sinners. They judge others. How are you like the Pharisees in this story? (Allow responses.) Do you look at other people and talk about how bad they are? Do you see someone sin and think that you would never do that? (Allow responses.) Would you be able to throw a stone at this woman? Are you without sin? (Allow responses.) We are all sinners. None of us could pick up one of the stones and throw it at this woman. Only God has the right to judge. God wants us to forgive others as Christ forgave us.**

As you continue reading, assist your child in acting out the passage. Characters: Jesus, sinful woman, those remaining will be the accusers.

### **John 8:5-11**

<sup>5</sup> *The law of Moses says to stone her. What do you say?”*

<sup>6</sup> *They were trying to trap him into saying something they could use against him, but Jesus stooped down and wrote in the dust with his finger. <sup>7</sup> They kept demanding an answer, so he stood up again and said, “All right, but let the one who has never sinned throw the first stone!” <sup>8</sup> Then he stooped down again and wrote in the dust.*

<sup>9</sup> *When the accusers heard this, they slipped away one by one, beginning with the oldest, until only Jesus was left in the middle of the crowd with the woman. <sup>10</sup> Then Jesus stood up again and said to the woman, “Where are your accusers? Didn’t even one of them condemn you?”*

<sup>11</sup> *“No, Lord,” she said.*

*And Jesus said, “Neither do I. Go and sin no more.”*

**What does Jesus do for the sinful woman? (Allow responses.) Jesus forgives this woman. He tells her to “go and sin no more.” Jesus is the only one who could have thrown a stone at this woman because he never sinned. Jesus could have punished her. Jesus could have judged her because he is without sin, yet he forgives her. She deserves punishment for her sin, but he chooses to show her mercy instead of showing judgment.**

**What does it mean to judge someone? Read through each judgment situation as a family and discuss how each situation shows judgment.**

- 1. You’re at a birthday party and you pray before you start eating your pizza, but your friend next to you does not pray before he starts eating. You think to yourself that you are better than him because you prayed and he didn’t, and so God likes you more than your friend.**
- 2. Your teacher was calling on people to answer math problems, and one boy answered incorrectly each time. You and a few of your classmates start laughing at him and call him stupid for not knowing the right answers.**
- 3. A bunch of your classmates are playing kickball at recess, and one of the girls playing doesn’t know all of the rules. At one point, she gets tagged out, but doesn’t think she should have been. The teacher says she can stay safely on base since she didn’t know the rule. You don’t think it’s fair that she isn’t out because everyone knows the rules to kickball.**
- 4. A girl in your class comes from a poor family, and she is often teased by some of your classmates. One day, she came to school wearing clothes that were too small and had some tears in them, and a boy in your class started making fun of her. You turned to your friend and said how lucky you were that your family wasn’t poor, so you didn’t have to come to school and be made fun of for having clothes that were worn out and didn’t fit.**

When the Pharisees judge the woman who had sinned, Jesus reminds them of their own sin. When we find we are tempted to judge others, we need to focus on our sin and our need for a savior. God alone can judge because he is perfect. James 4:12 says, “God alone, who gave the law, is the Judge. He alone has the power to save or to destroy. So what right do you have to judge your neighbor?”

The woman in our story today deserved death because she had sinned. We have also sinned—we all deserve death. Jesus died for our sins. God shows us forgiveness and mercy through Jesus. We are not in a position to judge others because Jesus is the only one who can judge. As we see sin in others, we need to recognize our own sin and ask God for forgiveness instead of focusing on others’ sins. We can forgive others of their sin and show mercy because God demonstrates forgiveness and mercy towards those who trust in and follow him.

## Prayer

Spend a few minutes in prayer to close your family time. Thank God for showing us how to forgive others. Ask him to help us remember our own sin instead of judging others.

## Activity

### Reflecting Stones

The purpose is to focus on our sins before looking at others.

#### Supplies:

- Rock
- Foil
- Small piece of paper
- Pencil
- Tape

Have your child cover their rock with foil (shiny side out). Then, have them write out Matthew 6:14 on a small piece of paper. Use a small piece of tape to stick the verse to their rock. Read over the verse a couple times.

This reflective rock should remind us that we should remember our own sin and the grace that God has given us before judging others. When we see other people sin, we need to remember that God is the judge. We are just as sinful as the people around us. We all deserve death because we have all sinned. Jesus died so that we would not have to be punished for our sin. It is not up to us to judge someone’s sins. We are to forgive those who have sinned, not judge them. If God can forgive us and show us mercy, then we should also be forgiving and merciful towards others.

