

FREEDOM FROM GUILT

THEOLOGICAL QUESTION

Can I really be forgiven for all my sins, even the really bad ones?

BIG IDEA

God's infinite love and forgiveness is far greater than our finite sin. Jesus Christ paid in full for our sin on the cross. God longs for us to admit our sins, embrace His forgiveness and leave our guilt behind. As we pursue a growing relationship with Him, we no longer need to be slaves to sin.

SCRIPTURE USED

John 8:7-11: (The Voice)

[Narrator:] *They persisted in badgering Jesus, so He stood up straight.*

Jesus: *Let the first stone be thrown by the one among you who has not sinned.*

[Narrator:] *Once again Jesus bent down to the ground and resumed writing with His finger. The Pharisees who heard Him stood still for a few moments and then began to leave slowly, one by one, beginning with the older men. Eventually only Jesus and the woman remained, and Jesus looked up.*

Jesus: *Dear woman, where is everyone? Are we alone? Did no one step forward to condemn you?*

Woman Caught in Adultery: *Lord, no one has condemned me.*

Jesus: *Well, I do not condemn you either; all I ask is that you go and from now on avoid the sins that plague you.*

Mark 2:5-11: (The Voice)

[Narrator:] *Jesus recognized the faith of these men.*

Jesus *(to the paralyzed man): Son, your sins are forgiven.*

[Narrator:] *Some scribes were sitting in the crowd, and they didn't like what they were hearing.*

Scribes (reasoning to themselves): *What does this Jesus think He is doing? This kind of talk is blasphemy, an offense against the Most High! Only God can forgive sins.*

[Narrator:] *At once Jesus realized what they were thinking. He turned to them.*

Jesus: *Why do My words trouble you so? Think about this: is it easier to tell this paralyzed man, "Your sins are forgiven," or to tell him, "Get up, pick up your mat, and walk"? Still, I want to show you that the Son of Man has been given the authority on earth to forgive sins. (To the paralytic) Get up, pick up your mat, and go home.*

1 Peter 2:24: *He personally carried our sins in his body on the cross so that we can be dead to sin and live for what is right. By his wounds you are healed (NLT).*

PRE-LESSON PREP

For this lesson you will need:

• Opener:

- Projection equipment for the opening video. You may choose from one of the following:
 - *Forgiveness Sermon Jam:*
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eOQ16U0i0I4>
 - *Caught (John 8) Slam Poetry:*
<http://videosforstudentministry.com/2013/06/caught-john-8/>

Note that the discussion questions differ slightly depending on which video you choose to use.

• Teaching:

- A stone
- A mat (e.g., a yoga mat or large bath mat)
- Two boxes described below
- Writing utensils
- Six copies of the Bible Readings page found near the end of this lesson for your designated readers to represent specific characters for the two readings from *The Voice* translation
- Copies of the "Freedom from Guilt" half-sheet handout found at the end of this lesson, preferably printed on cardstock

• Application / Reflection:

- Two boxes: one should be ugly and beat up / recycled. The other should be decorative or wrapped nicely with the smooth rocks and a Bible wrapped inside (keep the nice box hidden from your students until the closing section of the lesson)