

JESUS FORGIVES



John 8:1-11

Presentation Guide
5th Sunday of lent
Year C



Doctrine: (Catechist Reference)

CCC 982: There is no offense, however serious, that the Church cannot forgive. There is no one, however wicked and guilty, who may not confidently hope for forgiveness, provided his repentance is honest. Christ who died for all men desires that in his Church the gates of forgiveness should always be open to anyone who turns away from sin.

Materials

- Gospel Characters: Jesus, a woman, pharisees and other crowd characters
- Model of Jerusalem
- The Temple Backdrop

Words to Understand

Adultery: When a married person breaks the promise he or she made to be faithful to the marriage as a husband or wife.

Presentation

In today's Gospel reading, Jesus prevents a woman from being stoned for a sin she has committed. He has an important message for those who wish to stone her.

As we listen, we can think about how we can listen to that message and put it into practice in our own lives.

Light the candle.

John 8:1-11

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives.

Indicate the Mount of Olives on the Model of Jerusalem.

Early in the morning he came again to the temple; all the people came to him, and he sat down and taught them.

Indicate the temple on the Model of Jerusalem.
Place Jesus in front of the temple backdrop.

The scribes and the pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and placing her in the midst they said to him, "Teacher, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery.

Place the woman and several people including scribes and pharisees in front of Jesus.

Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such. What do you say about her?" This they said to test him, that they might have some charge to bring against him.

Agitate a pharisee and scribe a little.

Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground.

Catechist use the index finger to represent Jesus writing on the ground.

And as they continued to ask him, he stood up and said to them, "Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her."

Move Jesus slightly.

And once more he bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground.

Catechist use the index finger to represent Jesus writing on the ground.

But when they heard it, they went away, one by one, beginning with the eldest, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him.

Move the scribes and pharisees, and then others away from the scene.

Jesus looked up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?"

Face Jesus and the woman towards each other.

She said, "No one, Lord."

Move the woman a little as though shaking her head.

And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you; go, and do not sin again."

Move Jesus as though nodding.

Extinguish candle

I Wonder...

The scribes and pharisees said to Jesus: "Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such. What do you say about her?"

- what would have happened if Jesus had simply told them an answer to that question.
- why Jesus didn't answer the pharisees, but chose to write on the ground.
- what Jesus might have been writing.
- why the scribes and pharisees moved away one by one, starting from the eldest.
- what can we learn from the words of Jesus: "Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her."
- how can we apply to our own lives what Jesus told the woman: "Neither do I condemn you; go, and do not sin again."

