

# *Bridges of Light Ministries*

## **The Mirror**

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**A Bridges of Light Bible Study**

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## Instructions

This study may be used individually or in a group setting. The Leader's Guide is designed to be used by the Leader during a group discussion. The Guide is color coded to assist in directing the discussion. If you are going to lead a group discussion, then we suggest that you read the summary first, and then review the discussion, including the discussion points and answers. If you are using this study for your personal study time, then read the summary and then answer the questions on the Study Section. Make sure that you read and study the scriptures used in the Study. After you have completed the Study Section, then compare your answers to those that you will find in the Leader's Guide.

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### Color Code

◆ Scripture References in Red

◆ Leaders Guide points in Green

◆ Other comments

◆ Notes and Questions in black

◆ Summary of typical responses in blue

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## Summary

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The woman caught in adultery is a story of Grace and Truth. It shows us the heart of the Father and His desire above all else to restore us to a right relationship with Him. Through the images and words of the story of the woman caught in adultery God shows us Jesus our Advocate, His attitude towards our accusers, and that sin can disqualify you in more ways than one. This study explores those images and the story within the story.

The fact is that every one of us have played the role of the adulterer towards the LORD. We have all allowed circumstances, people and things to take center stage in our lives before God. Like the woman caught in adultery, we chase after other lovers. We seek to become one with something that will satisfy our need for love, acceptance or fulfillment. We seek to fill the God size hole in our hearts.

Having His image within us is like having this giant mirror in our heart. As we pursue things that don't line up with that image, the mirror becomes veiled with layers of lies. We can no longer see the reflection of who we really are because the image is filtered through lies and confusion.

So we seek to find that reflection in our spouses, our jobs, our ministries, our children, etc. Being a housewife, salesman, healing evangelist, prophet, business owner, pastor, or whatever is not our heavenly position. They are our current earthly position - not our identity. We are identified with Christ - a child of God, a Son of the Most High, the Bride of Christ.

His Grace enables our real identity to come into view. As He shows us who we really are in Him, empowering us to conform to that image. The mirror is restored and we now see clearly.

## Leader's Guide

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### ✓ John 8:3-11 (KJV)

- 3) And the scribes and Pharisees brought unto him a woman taken in adultery; and when they had set her in the midst,
- 4) They say unto him, Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act.
- 5) Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what sayest thou?
- 6) This they said, tempting him, that they might have to accuse him. But Jesus stooped down, and with his finger wrote on the ground, as though he heard them not.
- 7) So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her.
- 8) And again he stooped down, and wrote on the ground.
- 9) And they which heard it, being convicted by their own conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst.
- 10) When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee?
- 11) She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.

1) Was the woman guilty of a sin worthy of death, according to the Law?

Yes. Adultery was punishable by death.

{Leviticus 20:10 -21 lays out the law regarding sexual sin. In nearly every case death is the penalty. Verse 10 refers directly to the issue of adultery. Under the law, both the man and the woman were to be put to death. It is important to note that the Pharisees only brought the woman. The man was not charged. That was a violation of the law.}

2) Symbolically, who does the woman represent?

- Israel
- The Church
- Us, individually

{We are all guilty of spiritual adultery. Anything that we place before God is spiritual adultery.}

3) The pharisees are representative of who?

- The accuser
- The religious, walking under the law and without a relationship with God
- Denominations that hold to the legalistic letter of the Law without grace;
- Religious orders
- Representatives of the Law
- John 5:39-40 - those who pour over the scriptures and know them in their heads, but choose not to let them in their hearts - seek knowledge but not the Giver of knowledge.
- The accuser of the brethren - anyone who stands ready to remind us of our shortcomings and our inability to measure up without providing the option of God's mercy and grace aligns themselves with the accuser of the brethren.

{Consider the symbolic display that God has painted in the Word, the crowd, Jesus, the woman and the pharisees. Consider the place. Jesus is in the temple were He was teaching the people when the woman was brought before Him. The temple represented the throne of God. What do you see?}

- 4) Under the law, what should have been done?  
 She should have been taken out of the city and stoned.
- 5) What role is Jesus standing in for this woman?  
 Intercessor, Advocate  
 Advocate, protector, mediator  
 Judge and jury - hearing her case and pronouncing sentence
- 6) How does His role with this woman reflect His role for us in Heaven?  
 Jesus dealt with her accusers, just as Jesus deals with the one that brings accusations against us.  
 Jesus testifies to the fact that we can not be charged with sin because of His blood which speaks for us.  
**I John 2:1-2**  
 1) My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an ADVOCATE with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:  
 2) And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.  
 His role is the same for us - He stands up to plead our case and relieves us of our just consequences, through the completed work of the Cross. He faces our accusers on our behalf, so that we don't have to or even need to - He has taken all our sins upon Himself.
- ✓ **John 8: 6-8 (KJV)**  
 6) This they said, tempting him, that they might have to accuse him. But Jesus stooped down, and with his finger wrote on the ground, as though he heard them not.  
 7) So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her.  
 8) And again he stooped down, and wrote on the ground.
- 7) What, if anything, does the fact that Jesus wrote in the sand signify?  
 Note verse 6, part B, – as though he heard them not.  
 {As you can see by the common answers below, people have a wide variety of symbolisms that they see in Jesus writing in the sand. Listen to their answers, but don't get lost in a rabbit trail. Stay with the flow of the study.}  
 The Law as written by the Hand of God (the tablets Moses brought down from the mountain contained the ten laws written by God himself). Reminding those who spoke against her of their transgressions of the Law. All have sinned and fallen short...  
 Writing the Ten Commandments before them - each saw their own measure of guilt.  
 Writing a pardon - symbolic of our names being written in the Lambs Book of Life - Jesus becoming our Advocate gave the ability for our names to be written in the Book. Whatever Jesus wrote in the sand gave the woman her life back. When He writes our names in the Lamb's Book, He is giving us eternal life. Restored relationship with Him and with each other. Jesus restored her into right relationship with the Father and with others.
- A) Does the Father hear the words of our accuser against us?  
 No, I John 2:1-2. Jesus nullifies the accuser's words by the testimony of His blood.  
 No, just as Jesus did, He ignores the voice of the accuser. He is reminded of the Truth of who we are through the testimony of Christ.  
 {Consider Jesus actions before the woman's accusers. He wrote in the sand as if he did not hear them. Their words were not important, because he saw their hearts. He also had something more important to say about the situation for them, the woman and for us.}

✓ **Romans 3:22-26 (KJV)**

<sup>26)</sup> To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.

8) What does your act of accepting Jesus as your Savior earn you?

- Nothing. It was freely given for His Glory. It was not given because of any action on our part; otherwise it would be a debt and not free.
- By accepting Jesus as our LORD and Savior we simply applied the free gift.
- A free gift can not be claimed unless it has been accepted.

**John 3:16**

For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on Him shall not perish but have ever lasting life.

- It doesn't earn us anything - it is given freely.
- By Him and through Him are we justified and made upright - we can't earn it. If we were capable of earning it, then His death would have been a useless sacrifice of the Son of God. It would take things from being grace based (no ability of our own) to works based (all our ability).

✓ **Eph 1:4-6**

- <sup>4)</sup> According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love;
- <sup>5)</sup> Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,
- <sup>6)</sup> To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

9) What does it mean to be holy and without blame before him in love?

- Under the law we may deserve to be condemned, but because of His free gift to us our sin can not be accounted to us.
- We are acceptable in His love for us.
- We are hidden in Christ.
- Our spirit has been made perfect as He is perfect.
- 2 Corinthians 5:17-18 - if any man is in Christ, he is a new creation...

A) Does that mean we can sin without fear?

- Deliberately choosing to commit sin is an act of rebellion. Rebellion leads to separation from God, because the rebellious plug their ears so that they will not hear the call to repentance. Those who are rebellious walk away from the sanctification provided by the Cross and enter into judgement for having rejected Christ.
- Absolutely not - it simply means that if we sin, repent and confess that sin, He is just and able to forgive. Rebellion is an active, continual choice to do something against God. It is not a struggling believer who is trying to do the right thing and yet stumbles, but immediately repents. True repentance is the hammer to rebellion's hold on us.

B) What does it mean to be adopted by God?

- We are now His children - adopted and made His own - unable to be disinherited; we have a legal standing with Him as well as a personal standing.
- He chose us and made us His own. Hand-picked us from before the foundation of the earth. Named us even before we were in our mother's womb.

✓ **John 8: 7 (KJV)**

<sup>7)</sup> So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her.

10) Why did Jesus say to them, "He that is without sin cast the first stone"?

Was this just a means to silence them, or is there something more significant in His statement?

❑ Under the law could any man stand and declare that they were without sin?

✓ **Romans 3:20 (KJV)**

Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

✓ **Romans 3:23**

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God

❑ Jesus knew their motivations were not a desire to pursue righteousness, but to bring accusations against Him. Knowing their hearts and the spirit behind the accusation against the woman He refused to participate in their evil.

- Because everyone has sinned - no one is without sin against God. Under the Law, we have all committed sin against God - none are perfect without the grace of Christ.
- His comment is significant in that it revealed the purpose of His coming - to fulfill the Law and provide a way back to the Father. He revealed their own nakedness, exposing their shortcomings openly - not to condemn but rather to cast the Light of Truth: that we all have fallen short and need the grace Christ offers to be made right before God and man.

✓ **John 8:10-11 (KJV)**

<sup>10)</sup> When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee?

<sup>11)</sup> She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.

11) Why did Jesus not condemn the woman, knowing that she had sinned a sin worthy of death under the law?

❑ Jesus did not come to judge man, but to provide a path of forgiveness and restoration unto man.

John 8:15-16

○ He didn't come to condemn but rather to save.

12) Is Jesus saying to the Church, to us, "where are thy accusers?"

❑ Yes. The "accuser of the brethren" can not justly bring an accusation against someone who has accepted Christ as their Lord and Savior, because the blood speaks for us. Yet, if we reject His grace, then we become like the Pharisees who could not hear nor see and therefor died in their sin.

○ Yes, remember who you belong to. Don't let sin separate you from God - He does not pull away from us because we sin. He sees the Blood of Christ and when we draw near to Him in repentance, He is faithful to draw near to us and offer Himself. Also, don't let the sins of others separate you from the love of the Father. We can't judge others unfairly - judgement becomes a stumbling block. If we judge, we will be judged. We are called to judge the fruit of the tree - whether it is good or bad; we are not called to judge the tree itself.

13) When Jesus says, "Neither do I condemn thee:" , what is He saying?

- He declares that our sin has not been charged to our account. His blood paid the required price for us.
- You're forgiven; not charging sin to her account.

A) Why can we believe that we are not bound by past or current sin once we have confessed those sins?

✓ **Romans 3:24-26**

- <sup>24)</sup> Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:
- <sup>25)</sup> Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;
- <sup>26)</sup> To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.

- Because God is not a man that He should lie. His Word cannot return to Him void. His nature is absolute. His Word is absolute. Knowing Him, being in relationship with Him, will reveal these things as absolute truth.

14) Jesus also gives the warning "go, and sin no more." What is meant by this?

- Jesus warned the woman not to repeat her sin, and in doing so declared that she had sinned. Yet He still gave her another chance. The penalty of sin is death. He paid that price for us.

✓ **Romans 6:23 (KJV)**

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

- Just because you have been given forgiveness, it doesn't give you free license to go back to the same ways you've been living.
- He is saying that she has a 2nd chance to make the choice to serve the Father or continue to serve herself (or others). Don't abuse it, take it for granted or ignore it. Don't waste a 2<sup>nd</sup> chance at life.

A) What is the danger of habitual sin?

- Seared conscience; lines blurred between right and wrong/good and evil.

B) Should we maintain a focus on sinning less?

- No, focus on loving Him and getting to know Him and His character. Focusing on sin makes us works oriented. Focusing on God will make us grace oriented.

C) What is the difference between maintaining a focus on Christ and evaluating our lives constantly for sin?

- Maintaining a focus upon Christ will bring us joy and peace. Constantly evaluating our lives for sin (navel gazing) cause us to be constantly focusing upon ourselves and the areas where we fall short. The Word says to think upon things that are pure and just, true and right, etc. Whatever we spend our time thinking and meditating upon is what we will become likened to. Proverbs 23:7 says As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he.

15) What is the "Light of Life"?

- Jesus

✓ **John 1: 1-12**

- Jesus shed the light on the real problem and revealed the answer, through Him we are restored unto the Father.
- Jesus - who brings to light the love of the Father and provides the "roadmap" of how to receive it.

✓ **John 14:6**

I am the Way, the Truth and the Life, no one comes to the Father except thru Me.

16) What are the greatest commandments and why are they important?

✓ **Mark 12:28-34 (KJV)**

- <sup>28)</sup> And one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, and perceiving that he had answered them well, asked him, Which is the first commandment of all?
- <sup>29)</sup> And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord:
- <sup>30)</sup> And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.
- <sup>31)</sup> And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.
- <sup>32)</sup> And the scribe said unto him, Well, Master, thou hast said the truth: for there is one God; and there is none other but he:
- <sup>33)</sup> And to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love his neighbour as himself, is more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.
- <sup>34)</sup> And when Jesus saw that he answered discreetly, he said unto him, Thou art not far from the kingdom of God. And no man after that durst ask him any question.

- ❑ Love God and love your neighbor as yourself - because if you don't know how to love God and receive His love in return, you won't be able to love your neighbor as yourself. You won't have an understanding of the value of your life before the Father, which doesn't allow you to see the value of anyone's life.

17) Consider John 3:16, "For God so loved the World.." Being that God's motivation for sending Jesus to die for our sins was His great love for us, then what do you think is His view of abiding in Christ?

- ❑ Maintaining a passionate relationship with God through prayer (two way communication), learning of His ways and character, growing in our understanding of His Word, His Truth, so that His Truth can set us free from the lies that we have believed.
- Abiding - remaining - in His love; not walking away from the free gift of salvation - choosing to receive it by walking in it's power on a daily basis.
- being released into His image and staying there
- becoming a Kingdom of God person instead of a Kingdom of Mine person.
- Aligning our lives with His heart cry - which causes us to put Him first.

18) When Adam fell, what truth did he forget?

- ❑ That he was created in God's image. He was already like God and had all that he needed to fulfill his destiny. There was nothing that the Tree of Knowledge could provide for him that he really needed.

✓ **Genesis 1:26-29 (KJV)**

- <sup>29)</sup> And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat.

A) Why is this important?

- ❑ Our acceptance of God's Word as absolute truth dictates our walk with Him and to what level we walk in freedom.
- ❑ Our acceptance of a lie opens the door for the enemy to torment us and more importantly, it nullifies the grace of God in our lives, builds walls between us and God, and corrupts the image of who we really are.

19) What does Jesus restore to those who believe in Him?

- ☐ We are recreated into the image of God and adopted into His Kingdom.

Romans 3:22-26

Eph 1:4-6

- trust, right standing with God.
- all that was lost thru Adam
- relationship with God
- restores the image of God within us - clears the reflective mirror within our soul that shows our true creation in Christ Jesus.

20) Why is it important to grasp the truth that we walk in the righteousness of Christ, we are accepted into the beloved and we are now the children of God?

- ☐ We know that we are loved no matter what. We know that He is faithful to meet our needs and accomplish His purpose within our lives. We can draw near to Him in any circumstance, and He will not turn away from us in disgrace or disgust.

21) How should this truth be reflected in our walk, our relationship with God and our abiding in Christ?

- ☐ We are enabled to love God more freely and be loved by him more freely (more readily accept His love). This strengthens us to love others more effectively, as He would.
- ☐ He becomes all that we have need of, and we rely upon that. Our first instinct is to reach for Him instead of others or other things.

## Bible Study Questions

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✓ **John 8:3-11 (KJV)**

- 1) Was the woman guilty of a sin worthy of death, according to the Law?
  
- 2) Symbolically, who does the woman represent?
  
- 3) The pharisees are representative of who?
  
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