



LESSON 3 JESUS FORGIVES –

INTRODUCTION

Today we begin a series of lessons leading up to Easter. Christmas and Easter are the two main festivals in Australia. To understand the importance of these festivals you need to know more about Jesus. Through these lessons you will learn why these festivals are so important and some important vocabulary associated with these special events. Today's story is about a woman caught in adultery with a man who is not her husband and Jesus' response to her.

HOT TOPICS

1. Do you have capital punishment in your country? Do you agree or disagree with capital punishment? (*In threes discuss*).
2. In your country is it a crime to commit adultery? Is there any punishment for adultery in your country?

The Story

Choose 5 people to read the story: Narrator, Religious Leader, Lawyer, Jesus and the Woman

Vocabulary

Temple: a building used for worship

Adultery: sex with someone who is not your husband or wife.

Command: order, direct, or demand you to obey.

Accuse: to blame someone for some wrong thing.

Sin: to break God's law – do something wrong.

Stone to death: A form of capital punishment where stones are thrown at the accused until they are killed.

A Woman Caught in Adultery

John 8:2-11. (CEV)

Narrator: Early the next morning Jesus went back to the Temple. The people came to him, and he sat down and started teaching the people. The teachers of the Law and the Pharisees (*religious leaders*) brought in a woman who had been caught in bed with a man who wasn't her husband, and they made her stand before all of them.

Religious Leader Teacher (*Jesus*), this woman was caught in adultery with a man who is not her husband (adultery).

Lawyer: In our Law a woman who commits adultery must be stoned to death.

Religious Leader Now, what do you say Jesus?

Narrator They asked Jesus this question, because they wanted to test him and bring some charges against him. They kept asking Jesus wanting to accuse him. But Jesus bent over and wrote on the ground with his finger.

Jesus Whoever has done nothing wrong may throw the first stone at her.

Narrator Then Jesus bent over again and wrote on the ground. When the religious leaders and lawyers heard this, they all left, one by one, beginning with the oldest. Jesus was left alone, with the woman standing there. Jesus got up.

Jesus (*to the woman*). Where are they? Is there no one left to accuse you?

Woman No one, sir.

Jesus Well, then, I do not accuse you either. Go, but do not sin again.

Discussion

1. Give each pair a WH question to answer: **Who** is the story about, **What** is the story about, **When** did it happen, **Where** did it happen, **Why** is this story told?

2. Interview the actors in the story and ask the questions:

Lawyer: What is the punishment for adultery? Why didn't you throw a stone?

Religious Leader: Why did you walk away?

Woman: How will your life change after this experience?

Jesus: What authority/power do you have to forgive sins?

3. What do we learn about Jesus in this story?

4. Have you ever forgiven someone or been forgiven?