



JUSTICE

John 8:1-11 (woman in adultery)

Point: Jesus offers a different approach to justice than the world does.

Pre-story: The story you are about to hear takes place during the time of Jesus' ministry in which He is gaining both popularity from the crowd and consternation from the religious leaders. As you hear this story, listen for the theme of justice.

HEAD QUESTIONS:

- * Who are the main characters in this story?
- * What important things did people say/do to each other in this story?
- * If you have heard this story before, what stands out to you this time as new or different?

HEART QUESTIONS:

- * Of any character in the story, who do you connect with the most? Why?
- * What was the religious leaders' view of justice? How was Jesus' view of justice different?
- * What do you think was going on in the woman's heart and mind in this story in the beginning? What about after the final verse?
- * Where do you see justice in this story? Do you think Jesus acted justly in this story? Why or why not?
- * Why do you think God put this story in the Bible?

HANDS QUESTIONS:

- * What do we learn about being a follower of Jesus from this story?
- * What is one way you can participate in bringing about justice in your city/community/county?

REROUTING | WEEKLY QUESTIONS

LOVE

John 13:1-17, 34-35 (washing feet)

Point: The world has a version of love that is incomplete, but God's love is the true love that fulfills us.

Pre-story: This story takes place during the final week of Jesus' earthly ministry. He and the disciples are about to have the final Passover meal together and Jesus uses the preparation before the meal as an opportunity to illustrate what He has been teaching the disciples. Listen for the theme of love as this story is told.

HEAD QUESTIONS:

- * Who were the main characters in this story?
- * Where did it happen?
- * When did it happen in the timeline of Jesus?
- * What important things did people say/do to each other in this story?
- * How does Jesus' new commandment connect to his actions before the meal?

HEART QUESTIONS:

- * What does love look like in this story? How is this different than how the world views love?
- * How does Jesus tie loving and serving together? Why did Jesus use this example to demonstrate love?
- * When have you experienced this kind of love?
- * Where in your life have you practiced this kind of love?

HANDS QUESTIONS:

- * Who is one person who you can show this story's kind of love to this week?
- * Who can we, as a group, show this story's kind of love to this month?

REROUTING | WEEKLY QUESTIONS

SPIRITUALITY

John 15:1-17 (the vine and branches)

Point: God is the true source of spiritual life. The world's version of spirituality says that the source is found in anything other than God.

Pre-story: Jesus has just finished his final meal and is on His way to the Mount of Olives. As He comes across vine branches at the temple (the place where people came to meet with God), He uses this moment to help His disciples understand how spirituality is different now that Jesus is with them.

HEAD QUESTIONS:

- ✧ What are the three roles in this story?
- ✧ What did you notice in the story for the first time?

HEART QUESTIONS:

- ✧ In your own words, what was Jesus teaching His followers in this passage?
- ✧ What is Jesus teaching about spirituality in this passage? How is Jesus' form of spirituality different than other religions or the world's version of spirituality?
- ✧ What does the story say that the branch has to do to bear fruit? What does that look like in our everyday life?

HANDS QUESTIONS:

- ✧ What needs to change in your life to allow you to more consistently abide in Christ?
- ✧ How would you use this passage to help someone else grow spiritually?

REROUTING | WEEKLY QUESTIONS

BEAUTY

John 1:1-18 (the Word made flesh)

Point: God shows us a beauty that the world cannot measure up to.

Pre-story: As John opens up his version of Jesus' story, he draws on themes from the poetic creation narrative in Genesis 1. What John is about to describe cannot be contained in regular language so John uses poetry. Notice the beauty portrayed as we read this story.

HEAD QUESTIONS:

- * Who are the main characters in this scene?
- * What actions were taken by each character?
- * What did you wonder about when the passage was being told/read? (Hint: there is not a need to address everything that people wonder. These can make for good future conversations outside of group.)

HEART QUESTIONS:

- * Where do you see beauty in creation? Where does the world see beauty in creation? How do the two differ? (Hint: Who gets the credit.) Why is this difference important?
- * What is your definition of beauty? How do beautiful things in our world point to the reality of God and help us make sense of the world and of what matters most?
- * This passage of Scripture is written in a poetic form. Why do you think John chose that approach?

HANDS QUESTIONS:

- * How does this story affect your life? What will you do in light of that?
- * How can you use the beauty of creation to point people toward Christ?
- * What is one way you can participate in adding beauty to your family/city/community/county?

REROUTING | WEEKLY QUESTIONS

FREEDOM

John 8:31-38

Point: True freedom is experienced in the spiritual realm.

Pre-story: The Israelites always understood themselves to be a freed people since being delivered from Egypt. As the religious leaders dialogue with Jesus, freedom takes on a new meaning. As we listen to the story, listen for the theme of freedom.

HEAD QUESTIONS:

- ✧ Who are the main characters in this passage of Scripture?
- ✧ What did Jesus specifically say about the issue of freedom?
- ✧ In relation to freedom, what two kinds of people does Jesus allude to in this passage?

HEART QUESTIONS:

- ✧ Why do you think that the Pharisees reacted so strongly to Jesus saying that they were slaves?
- ✧ What does Jesus say about freedom in this passage? How does the world describe freedom? How are the two different?
- ✧ What good things do you imagine we have been freed for?

HANDS QUESTIONS:

- ✧ What did we learn about being a follower of Jesus from this passage?
- ✧ Consider some of your answers about what you've been freed for. Which one of those will you practice living out this week? How will you do it?

REROUTING | WEEKLY QUESTIONS

TRUTH

John 18:33-38

Point: The ultimate truth is found in Jesus.

Pre-story: Jesus is in His final moments and is on trial before Pilate, the ruling governor over the area. As the two men come face-to-face with each other, the issue of truth is being radically redefined. As the story is being told, listen for what the redefinition of truth is.

HEAD QUESTIONS:

- ✧ What jumps out at you as new or different?
- ✧ What questions did Pilate ask Jesus?

HEART QUESTIONS:

- ✧ Why do you think Pilate asked, “What is truth?”
- ✧ What does Jesus say about truth? What does the world say about truth? How are the two different?
- ✧ Based on this passage, how can a person come to know about truth?
- ✧ **Read John 14:6.** How does Jesus’ claim address “relative” truth?

HANDS QUESTIONS:

- ✧ How should my life be impacted if I believe what Jesus said is true?
- ✧ Are there any “truths” that you are living by that are different than God’s truth? If so, what will you do to align your thoughts and actions with His truth this week?
- ✧ How would you use this passage to disciple someone? Who will you do that with this week?

REROUTING | WEEKLY QUESTIONS

POWER

John 12:20-33 (Jesus shows where His power comes from)

Point: God's way of wielding and using power is completely different than the way it is used in the world.

Pre-story: Jesus recently raised Lazarus from the dead prompting many to seek Him out. It's Passover and a large crowd has gathered to welcome and hear from Jesus in Jerusalem (traditionally called the "Triumphal Entry"). When Jesus speaks to them, He tells them about His upcoming death and resurrection. In the midst of Jesus sharing this, His words are confirmed in an unexpected way. As you hear the story, listen for when this confirmation takes place.

HEAD QUESTIONS:

- * Who are the main characters in this story?
- * What did the voice from heaven say?
- * What did the crowd hear?

HEART QUESTIONS:

- * In your own words, what was Jesus teaching His followers in this scene?
- * What do you think Jesus was feeling in the passage and why?
- * How did Jesus describe His power in this passage? How do verses 24 and 32 tie to the theme of power?
- * How is this different than the way the leaders in this world commonly display power?
- * Share a time when you have seen someone use their power sacrificially to help someone else.

HANDS QUESTIONS:

- * Based on this passage, what do you think God desires of you? What in this story makes you think so? How can you intentionally live this out this week?
- * Think about relationships that you have power (influence) in. How will you use your power this week in a way that will "lift Jesus up and draw people to Him?"



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