



STUDY GUIDE

I AM
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[set up]

Find out who in your LifeGroup was pulled over most recently for a traffic violation. Ask, “Were you simply warned or did you have to pay a fine?”

See if someone else in the group has a story about being warned and not fined. See if another person in the group has a story about being both warned and fined.

Ask, “Which has the biggest impact on changing your behavior? The fine? The warning? Both? Neither?”

[digging deeper]

Re-read John 8:1-12.

How is this situation a potential trap for Jesus? What could the Pharisees have accused Jesus of if He had told them to let her go? What could they have accused him of if He had said to stone her?

How does Jesus spring the trap?

How does Jesus’ response to the woman caught in adultery exemplify both grace and truth?

In the message, we learned that the light of Jesus 1) reveals without condemning and 2) restores without condoning. If you had to give the average evangelical church in America a grade on each, what would it be and why? If you had to give CVC a grade on each, what would it be and why? If you had to give yourself a grade on each, what would it be and why?

We, too, are to be like Jesus as much as possible – full of grace and truth. Read Matthew 7:1-2 (a passage that teaches us to not condemn) and Matthew 7:6 (a passage that teaches us to not condone). How can followers of Jesus obey both of those Scriptures?

Read Galatians 6:1-2 (a passage that teaches us to restore) and Titus 3:10-11 (a passage that teaches us to not restore). When and how should believers apply both of these Scriptures?

[living it out]

How can reflecting the Light of Christ (revealing without condemning and restoring without condoning) in your neighborhood help you live more faithfully as a LifeHouse?

On a large Post-it, draw a highway - vertically. Say, "There is a highway we are supposed to walk. In Isaiah 35 it's called the 'highway of holiness.' If we call Jesus Lord, we are saying that we intend to be holy, to obey the law of God." Write the word "holiness" on the highway. Draw two ditches paralleling the highway. Say, "Some people—a "do more, try harder, self-effort, self-righteous" group—fall into a ditch called legalism. Other folks—a "live-it up, cave in, why try" group—fall into the ditch called lawlessness." Label the ditches. Now, as a group discuss percentages. What percentage of people in the church do you believe are in each ditch? What percentage do you believe are on the highway of holiness? Ask, "Where do you think you are?"

Because of His death and resurrection, Jesus accepts us "as is." What does that tell us about a person if that fact reinforces "bad behavior"? What does that tell us about a person if that fact frees us to change?

Without mentioning names, share some stories about friends who have fallen. What is God calling you to do for them or to say to them?

Spend time praying for the stories shared and for any LifeHouse prayer requests in your group.