

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

ONE, TWO, THREE; FORGIVEN

OR HOW TO WIN WHEN IT COMES TO SIN

Scripture: John 8:1-12

Pastor Marcus Preciado – 20 Dec 2015

Today, it was campus pastors giving an individual message at each one of the 5 campuses. At Point Loma, Pastor Marcus focused on how God forgives our sin. The Greek word for sin is *hamartia* which means "missing the mark". If we try to do good and we don't make it, that is sin; we are missing the mark of God's perfection. The message began with a very effective demonstration of how sin is like missing the mark or aiming for the bullseye and missing when playing darts.

Pastor Marcus gave 3 simple steps for dealing with our sin:

Admit it - acknowledge we are not perfect, that we are wrong . Admit we need a relationship with Jesus. God guarantees that He will forgive us.

Quit it - God wants us to stop living in sin, simply because it is better for us and our relationship with Him. The word "repent" means to change your mind.

repent = change your mind

Forget it - Ps 103:12

The Scripture from the message was the story of the woman who was caught by the religious leaders in the act of adultery. She admitted her sin, Jesus asked her to turn away from that sin and he forgave her. This message gives us an understanding of God's heart when it comes to His commands. God is not trying to restrict us or confine us through His commands but give us the boundaries in which to enjoy life fully without the consequences of sin.

MEMORY VERSE

**As far as the east is from the west,
So far has He removed our transgressions from us.**

Psalm 103:12



DISCUSSION STARTERS

1. Pastor Marcus began with a story about how he overly tried to impress his wife when they were first dating. What is the most unusual example of what you have done to try and impress someone?
2. What rules were you given when growing up that were very difficult to follow? Looking back, were those rules and boundaries given out of love?

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Pastor Greg noted during the worship set that we tend to be friendlier with others during the Christmas season. Why is that? What would help make that a more frequent experience all year around?
2. Share an experience that made you feel like it was hard for God to love you. What helped to get over that feeling or thought?
3. Do we have our own standard of perfection? Do we rationalize how our own bad behavior or "missing the mark" becomes acceptable?
4. The religious leaders, who brought the woman forward to Jesus in John 8:4-6 sought to keep the woman down.
 - * Share about a time when you have been kept down.

For these questions, suggest breaking into groups of 2 or 3.

5. Pastor Marcus shared how parents demonstrate love for their children by giving rules and corrections when those rules are not followed.
 - * What keeps you from having a more loving living relationship with Jesus?



6. Look at John 8:6-8. The religious leaders were stuck in their own sin and instead of admitting to it, they were looking to convict Jesus and the woman, until Jesus quietly convicted their conscience. Look into your heart and share where you may be stuck in the trap of not admitting to sin and that is or was affecting your relationship with God.

7. Read Acts 3:19. How does that verse speak to you in the context of this message?

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

When Pastor Marcus did the dart throwing demonstration on stage, he put safety glasses on his assistant who held the dartboard. List some of the safety methods and practices we can use to protect our relationship with Jesus Christ as we go throughout the week.

TAKE IT HOME!

In Galatians 5:22-23, Paul talks about "the fruit of the Spirit" that is available to all Christians (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control). Share this fruit of the Spirit more often - even after the Christmas season.

