

# ENCOUNTERS

DISCUSSION GUIDE

# WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Welcome to community group! We believe that people come to faith and grow in their faith when they get to spend time reflecting on God's Word, and also spending time with other Christians. That's what we're hoping for tonight. As we get started, here are a lot of things happening in the broader life of the church starting in the new year:*

## • Download & Update

Alright...if you have a smartphone, take it out....Seriously...Now go to the App Store and get the Church Center App. We'll wait. ... Search for "New City Cincinnati" and pick it. Login with your Planning Center login / follow the instructions. This app is probably the best way to stay up to date on upcoming events, Community Group meeting dates and times, find groups, etc. AND you can even manage your giving on there. Soon they're supposed to release some communication tools as well. Now...once you have the app, tap on the icon on the top right (if you don't have a profile picture yet it'll be a gray person icon). Upload a picture, check your information, etc. And there you have it!

## • Missional Motherhood: February 8th

Our next gathering for New City Moms of all ages and stages is Saturday, February 8th! The childcare deadline has passed but if you get the kiddos cared for you can still join us to discuss the subject of "Catching Uncomfortable" - identifying anxieties, resolving conflict, and improving communication. Registration deadline is January 31st @ noon.

## • New City Guys' Game Night: Friday, February 21st

Gentlemen...come on out to the church building for games. If you've got a favorite game feel free to bring it though some of our resident game masters will bring several favorites. Also **bring something to drink (soda, beer, etc.) and a snack to share**. Invite friends! P.S. Whether you're a pro board gamer or don't dig the idea of games, *come join us*. There'll be food and drink (and other fellas who probably don't love games either. Just come and join Pastor Josh walking around and chatting).

## • Ash Wednesday: February 26th

We're going to gather for worship at 7p on Wednesday, February 26 @ the church building to mark the beginning of Lent and our journey toward Holy Week & Easter. Children are more than welcome to participate in worship but there will only be childcare for children ages 4 and under. RSVP for childcare on Church Center.

# Jesus & the Guilty

(John 7.53-8.11)

*Open up with a prayer for your time together: giving thanks for the community God has given us, asking for encouragement amongst one another, and for God to be honored, etc.*

**OPENER:** What was the most effective, powerful consequence for you when you got in trouble as a kid?

## STUDY/DISCUSSION

*So far in 2020 we've been exploring "Encounters" Jesus has with folks in the gospel of John. This week's Scripture passage tells the well known story of a guilty woman being dragged to Jesus, ostensibly for punishment (and probably to trap Jesus as well). Let's read it and see what we can see.*

*Place yourself in the scene and imagine what this might be like. Imagine the crowd's response. Put yourself in the shoes of the woman, the Pharisees. What thoughts and feelings might be occurring? What emotions are being stirred up?*

**>> READ >> John 7.53-8.11**

1. After imagining the scene - what do you make of Jesus' response? Surprising? Shocking? Wrong? How do you imagine all the characters in this story are reacting to how Jesus responds and what he says?
2. Read Matthew 7:1-5, James 2:8-13, and Galatians 6:1-3. How do these passages shed light on the passage in John's gospel?
3. Read John 3:16-18. How does John's explanation of who Jesus is shape our reading of the sermon text?
4. Jesus says to the woman: "Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more." (Jn 8:11). If you're a follower of Jesus, he says this to you too. What does God's grace and forgiveness call us to? How do we do this more as a community?
5. What does this passage show us about how we relate to our neighbors and those outside the church?

## PRAY

Take some time and pray together. Focus on Jesus as merciful and a welcomer of the guilty, giving thanks that he welcomes even us.