



**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Series:** Signs on Believers' Hwy  
Winter Year 4, Lesson 41

# Woman Caught in Sin

**Take Home Point:** \*Jesus is the judge who pardons.

\*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

**Bible Event:** John 7:37 - 8:11

**Key Verses:** John 3:17-18a, "God sent his Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but to save the world. Those who believe in him won't be condemned."

**We will help kids know:**

- The Bible event of a woman who was caught in sin and encountered Jesus. He was the only one qualified to judge her and he pardoned her.
- Adultery will be explained (*if a child asks*) as a sin that adults do. Adultery is when a man or woman acts like they are married to another person that is not their husband or wife.
- Jesus is perfect. He is the judge, but pardons (*or forgives*) us for doing wrong.
- We should never think: "I never do anything wrong so I can judge others and tell them how bad they are."
- It is not judging when you encourage others to stop sinning.




**We will help kids feel:**

- Comfort in knowing Jesus forgives us and does not condemn us.
- Convicted if they are quick to pass judgment on others.

**We will help kids do:**

- Identify judgment rocks they "throw" when judging others.
- Make an art display for their group that puts judgment rocks at the foot of the cross.
- Pray for anyone who willingly sins against God.

# THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
<b>Small Group Warm-Up</b> (15 minutes) 	3	Children are asked to identify wrongs done by others and themselves. They also discuss how they tend to judge others' actions and overlook their own.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>two smooth rocks per child (big enough to write on)</li> <li>markers</li> </ul>
<b>Large Group</b> (20-30 minutes) 	4        8        11        12	<b>Overview</b>  <b>Puppet Presentation:</b> "Gordy's Big Rock Fight"—Gordy feels hurt when judged and then turns around and judges others. He takes the matter into his own hands by throwing rocks.  <b>Video and Interactive Teaching:</b> <i>The Gospel of John</i> ----John 7:37-8:11  <b>Puppet Conclusion:</b> "Gordy's Big Rock Fight"—Gordy learns to leave the judging to Jesus. He is the only one who lived a perfect life and died on the cross to forgive and pardon us.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gordy</li> <li>orange construction vest</li> <li>construction hat</li> <li>work boots</li> <li>sign on stick printed with, "Don't hold on to a grudge and look down on a sinner." (p. 14) On back it says "Because Jesus is the ___ (judge) who can make anyone a ___ (winner)." (p. 15)</li> <li>two or four chairs</li> <li>cardboard car front</li> <li>video: DVD <i>Gospel of John</i>, produced by Visual Bible International, 2003</li> <li>rock with "G" written all over it</li> <li><i>option:</i> rock candy for rewards and giant "foam" rocks for incorrect answers</li> </ul>
<b>Small Group Application</b> (20-25 minutes) 	4	Children make a cross and lay down rocks as a symbol for laying their sins at the foot of the cross.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>craft wire</li> <li>poster board or thin wood (one square foot)</li> <li>6"-8" length of wooden dowel and 3"-4" wooden dowel or trimmed tree branches</li> <li><i>option:</i> large craft sticks and index cards 4"x6" unlined and double-sided tape</li> <li>glue</li> <li>rocks from small group</li> </ul>

# Small Group Warm-Up: 15 minutes



**Purpose:** *Get pointed in the right direction!* Build relationships and help guests feel at ease. Do the learning readiness activity that will point your group in the right direction for the lesson.

*Supplies: two smooth rocks per child (large enough to write on), markers*

Pass out a rock to each child and ask:

**Did you see another person do something wrong either at home or at school this past week? How quickly can you think of something? Raise your hand when you do. Write down the first initial of that person's name on your rock. Without mentioning any names, share some of the things you saw others do wrong.**

Talk about the wrongdoings and have kids continue to write the first initials on their rock for the actions they witnessed. Have kids count all the initials (or other marks if they are uncomfortable writing down initials) and ask:

**How many things have you seen others do wrong this week?**

**Now, let's pretend it is our job to punish these people for their wrongdoing and we had to use these rocks to punish them. What do you think we should do?**

Discuss ideas. Then pass out another rock to each child. Ask them to think of things *they* did wrong this past week and write their initial on the rock for each offense. Then ask:

**Would you like to receive the same punishment that we suggested the others receive?**

**Was it easier for you to think of what others had done wrong than to think of what you had done wrong?**

**Today, we will learn about judging others. Judging is when someone decides that another person needs to be punished. In our country, we have judges who decide the punishment when people break the law. But, we are talking about a different kind of judgment today. This is a judgment that every person does when they judge the people around them. This is the kind of judgment that says, "I never do anything wrong so I can judge others and tell them how bad they are." What do you think Jesus has to say about that?**

**Jesus was the only person who lived a perfect life, free from any wrongdoing and yet he didn't judge those people who were sorry for their sins. So, we shouldn't either. We will learn *\*Jesus is the judge who pardons.***

# Large Group Overview: 20-30 minutes



**Purpose:** *Help kids observe what the Bible says. Present the Bible event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.*

**Puppet Presentation:** “Gordy’s Big Rock Fight”—Gordy feels hurt when judged and then turns around and judges others by taking the matter into his own hands, which includes throwing rocks.

**Video and Interactive Teaching:** *The Gospel of John*—John 7:37-8:11

**Puppet Conclusion:** “Gordy’s Big Rock Fight”—Gordy learns to leave the judging to Jesus. He is the only one who lived a perfect life and died on the cross to forgive us and pardon us. Rightly, he is the only one to judge us.

# Small Group Application: 20-25 minutes



**Purpose:** *Help kids map out the meaning of the Bible event in their lives. Use the questions to stimulate discussion but don't feel tied to them. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Include personal examples from your own faith journey. The example of Christ at work in your life will leave lasting impressions of how Christ can work in the children's lives.*

*Use your Bibles! Children need to learn how to look up references and follow along when scripture is read aloud. Allow for quality time of prayer at the close of the lesson.*

## Observation Questions: What happened?/ Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?

*Note: If kids ask what adultery is say that it is when a man or woman acts like they are married to another person that is not their husband or wife.*

Have kids refer to John 8:11.

**What punishment did the scribes and Pharisees believe the woman caught in adultery deserved?** (*John 8:4. According to the teachings of Moses, she should be stoned to death.*)

**Why did the Pharisees and scribes bring this woman before Jesus and ask him what should be done with her?** (*John 8:6. They wanted to trap Jesus so they could bring charges against him.*)

**How do you think this was a trap?** *(They knew Jesus was compassionate to sinners and would probably not want to stone her. But then he would be violating the Law of Moses.)*

**What was Jesus' response?** *(John 8:6-7. Jesus agreed that the law said she should be stoned but said the one who was sinless should throw the first stone.)*

**What do you think Jesus may have been writing in the dirt?** *(Maybe listing the sins of those present. He may have been writing the other laws of Moses and the consequences for those sins?)*

**What did the scribes and Pharisees do when Jesus said this?** *(John 8:9. One by one they left.)*

**Why do you think the older men left first?** *(Maybe they were wiser. Maybe they had lived longer and had committed more sins?)* **How do you think they felt?** *(Maybe anger? Maybe shame?)*

**Who was the only person present who could have thrown a stone at the woman?** *(Jesus, because he did not sin.)*

**What did Jesus do instead?** *(John 8:11. He said he did not condemn the woman.)*

**What did he tell the woman now that she was free?** *(John 8:11. "Go! From now on don't sin.")*

**How do you think the woman felt and how did her life change?** *(Allow time for kids to think about this before they respond.)*

## **Application Questions: What does this mean to me?**

**Who is the only person that lived a perfect life?** *(Jesus.)*

**Jesus is perfect and he has the right to judge you for all the sin you have ever done. The Bible even points out that when we sin, we sin not just against other people, but also against God.**

Have kids look at the rocks with their initials from the Warm-Up activity and say:

**These rocks remind us that God could punish us for the ways we have sinned against him. Our sin could even keep us away from God.**

**But Jesus says that he won't condemn us if we turn to him. The Bible says in John 3:17-18a (key verse), "God sent his Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but to save the world. Those who believe**

***in him won't be condemned."*** When we repent of our sin to Jesus, it is like taking these rocks and putting them at the foot of the cross.

Application activity:

*Supplies: craft wire, poster board or thin wood (one square foot), thumbtack or hammer and nail, glue, one 6"-8" length of wooden dowel or trimmed branch and one 3"-4" wooden dowel or trimmed branch, rocks from Warm-Up activity*

*Option or alternative: use large craft sticks and poster board. For individual take home craft, have kids each use double-sided tape to adhere their cross and rocks to an index card 4"x6" unlined.*

Help kids make a wooden cross with the sticks and wire. Then secure the cross to plywood or poster board with a tack or nail. (Or, use alternative of large craft sticks and poster board.) Say:

**Let's imagine that we took a time machine and we went back in time to when Jesus gave his life for us on the cross. Now, imagine taking our rocks that represent all the wrong things we've ever done and putting them at the foot of the cross. That is where all of our sin is put.**

**How do you feel? Do you feel at all like the woman who had committed adultery after Jesus forgave her?**

**Jesus forgave our sin by giving his life for us. How big a rock pile do you think we would have at the cross if everyone in the world put his or her rocks there? It would be a rock field miles and miles wide and tall.**

**If Jesus died so that we would not be condemned, what do you think we should do with the rocks we've written the initials of others who have sinned? Should we be the judges of them? Of course not. Judging is also a sin. Instead, let's lay those rocks at the foot of the cross also. We will let Jesus judge instead of us. Remember *\*Jesus is the judge who pardons*. Let's now put all the rocks at the foot of the cross.**

Glue the rocks around the cross. *(Let the glue dry completely before holding upright.)* Sometime during the discussion, point out that it is not judging when you encourage others to stop sinning. But we should only do so because we love the person and we should talk to them with gentleness and kindness.

*Suggestion: Display this cross throughout the Lenten Season before Easter.*

Closing Prayer:

Ask God's forgiveness for thinking of ourselves as better than others and judging them for their wrongdoing when we also are at fault. Thank God for sending Jesus to take away the punishment that we deserve. Thank him that when we believe in Jesus as the Savior, he no longer condemns us. Pray for the Holy Spirit's power not to judge others again. Pray for those who willingly sin against God.

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# Large Group Presentation: 20-30 minutes

## Signs on Believers' Highway Series

*The book of John points to miracles as signs and proof that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. The imagery of road construction signs will be used to exemplify the signs that Jesus performed as told in the book of John. The road worked on is referred to as "Believers' Highway" to show we are all on a journey in our faith.*

*The presenter is dressed in an orange construction vest, hat and work boots and holds a different road sign each week that is fitting with the Bible event. Another important prop is the simulated car set-up with two or four chairs facing the audience and a cardboard car front (See lesson 34). Shepherds and children are both involved as observers on the highway. They are called up to drive the car and answer questions, give feedback and interact with or about the event.*

*This series uses "The Gospel of John" DVD series as a visual to show the events of the Bible.*

*Supplies: orange construction vest, construction hat, work boots, sign on stick printed with: "Don't hold on to a grudge and look down on a sinner." On back: "Because Jesus is the \_\_\_\_\_ (judge) who can make anyone a \_\_\_\_\_ (winner)", two or four chairs, cardboard car front, a rock with "G" written all over it*

## Gordy's Big Rock Fight Puppet Presentation

The presenter enters wearing an orange construction vest, hat and work boots.

**Presenter:** Shall we call out Gordy?

*Kids call for Gordy. Gordy, Gordy, Gordy.*

Gordy enters and sets the rock on the ledge.

**Presenter:** Hi, Gordy. What do you have there?

Gordy: It's a rock from our small group.

**Presenter:** Yes, your small group talked about judging others. What did you find out?



Gordy: Most kids found it easier to think of wrong stuff *other* people did instead of the wrong stuff *they* did.

**Presenter: But what about you?**

Gordy: Don't you remember the top five time-outs from a couple of weeks ago?

**Presenter: Don't remind me.**

Gordy: Cherry Jell-O and the piano? Cat bowling??

**Presenter: Gordy, I said don't remind me. So, I guess you found it easier to remember some of the wrong things you did. Can I see your rock?**

The presenter picks up and examines the rock, noticing all the "G"s marked on it.

Gordy: Yep. It's covered with "G"s as in Gordy. I think I had a bad week.

**Presenter: I'm sorry, Gordy. Do you want to tell me about it?**

Gordy: First, can I have my rock back? You can set it up here.

The presenter places rock back on ledge.

First, I forgot my homework.

**Presenter: Oops.**

Gordy: Then I told my teacher that a hamster crawled in my backpack and ate it.

**Presenter: You're kidding me...** (chuckling to himself).

Gordy: Everyone else thought it was funny except the teacher.

**Presenter: Well, it's not funny if you lied.**

Gordy: I didn't exactly lie. I did put my hamster in my back pack and after that I couldn't find my homework so maybe...

**Presenter: Gordy, did you do your homework?**

Gordy: I can't remember. Maybe not.

**Presenter: Gordy, that is wrong and you should be sorry for it.**

Gordy: I know I should, but some people like Tyrone Hoover keep making fun of me.

**Presenter: That's too bad.**

Gordy: It will be too bad for him. He said it sounded like a hamster crawled into my head and ate my brains.

**Presenter: Gordy, that's terrible.**

Gordy: Yes. And all the kids laughed at me. But that's okay. I've got this rock.

**Presenter: What are you going to do with it?**

Gordy: I'm saving it for a rock fight. I'll teach Tyrone. He thinks he never does anything wrong. But he is one of the worst throwers in third grade. Just the guy to have a rock fight with.

**Presenter: Gordy, enough of that! A rock fight won't solve anything and can be very dangerous.**

Gordy: Yeah, but I don't like it when he thinks I'm dumb.

**Presenter: It sounds like he judged you.**

Gordy: What does that mean?

**Presenter: Well, some people think if they never do anything wrong they can judge others and tell them how bad they are.**

Gordy: That's what he did then. He judged me.

**Presenter: And it can hurt, can't it? But hurting him back is not the answer. As a matter of fact, you might end up judging him and think that you've got the right to tell him how bad he is. Gordy, you don't want to do that.**

Gordy: I guess I don't want to have a rock fight either, huh?

**Presenter: Right, Gordy.**

Gordy: What am I to do?

**Presenter: Today we will learn that Jesus is the judge, but he forgives us for doing wrong. Because Jesus forgives us, we shouldn't judge others. We've got to take our rocks and drop them.**

Gordy: What if I drop it and the rock accidentally hits his head?

**Presenter:** Gordy, that's not funny. These rocks can remind us of the way we judge others. And, instead of judging, we can leave them at the foot of the cross. Why don't we watch today's video and see how Jesus told people not to judge a woman who was caught in sin.

**Kids, when you listen to today's Bible event, listen for the words "judge" or "condemn." Anytime you hear one of these, pretend that your fist is a judge's gavel (like a hammer) and you can hit your other hand with it like this (gavel coming down).**

## **Video**

Show *The Gospel of John* DVD, produced by Visual Bible International, 2003. Show the clip covering John 7:37-8:11. Begin just after the Chief Priest says, "What does he mean?" and end it just after Jesus says, "Go, but do not sin again."

## **Signs Along Believers' Highway**

John 7:37-8:11

The presenter holds the sign that says, "Don't hold on to a grudge and look down on a sinner." The back of the sign says, "Because Jesus is the \_\_\_\_ (*judge*) who can make anyone a \_\_\_\_ (*winner*)." Be careful to only show the front for now until the back is needed for the contest.

*Optional: reward contestant for correct answers with rock candy and throw giant "foam" rocks at the audience for getting them wrong.*

**Presenter:** I need two kids and a shepherd to come up and get in the car and get ready to drive.

Have them come up onstage and arrange them so that kids are in front driving and the shepherd is in the back.

**On "Believers' Highway," kids can drive just as well as adults because we are all growing in our spiritual journey, learning to trust Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God. So buckle your seat belts, and let's go for a ride!**

**Are you ready to figure out the missing words on the back of the sign? The front of the sign says, "Don't hold on to a grudge and look down on a sinner." The back says, "Because**

**Jesus is the \_\_\_\_\_ (*judge*) who can make anyone a \_\_\_\_\_ (*winner*).” Remember, it will rhyme with sinner.**

Allow for a few guesses, then give the answer. Continue with:

**In today’s Bible event, people were arguing whether Jesus was the Promised One the Old Testament had foretold, and whether he was the Messiah or the Christ.**

- 1. Do you think the religious leaders thought he was the Promised One or the Messiah? Yes or No. (*No.*)**
- 2. They brought a woman who had been caught in a very bad sin to Jesus. According to Moses’ law in the Old Testament, what was the punishment she deserved? (*To be stoned to death.*)**
- 3. Fill in the blanks with what Jesus said to make them stop and think and then drop their stones. “Whoever has no \_\_\_\_\_ (*sin*) can throw the first \_\_\_\_\_ (*stone*).”**
- 4. Who was the only man that had no sin and could be the judge? (*Jesus.*)**

**For the last question, the first team to answer correctly will get a bonus.**

- 5. What did Jesus tell the woman to do when he set her free? (*Go, and sin no more.*)**

## **Gordy's Rock Fight**

Puppet Conclusion

**Presenter: What do you think, Gordy?**

Gordy: Those guys were ready for a rock fight for real, weren’t they?

**Presenter: They sure were.**

Gordy: It must have been bad for the woman with everyone standing around wanting to throw rocks at her.

**Presenter: Yes. Do you think they really cared about her?**

Gordy: Not if they wanted to throw rocks.

**Presenter:** Yes. And, I think they were even more interested in trying to trap Jesus. They knew the Bible said that the punishment she deserved was to be stoned to death. And, they probably wanted to see if Jesus would disagree with the law.

**Gordy:** Did he?

**Presenter:** No, of course not. He knew what she did was wrong. But, Jesus was different from them because he loved her. He was the only one who wanted to pardon her from her sin so she could go free.

**Gordy:** Oh, I get it. He never said that it was okay to do wrong stuff. He just told those guys that they shouldn't judge her so much because they had done wrong things, too.

**Presenter:** Yes. Jesus was the only one who could judge and he pardoned her—that is, he forgave her.

**Gordy:** That's kinda like what he does for me, too.

**Presenter:** That's right, Gordy. And, if Jesus pardons you when you are sorry for your sin, do you think you should pick up a rock and judge someone else for theirs?

**Gordy:** No. I was just kidding before about throwing rocks anyway.

**Presenter:** I know you were Gordy. But today, let's picture this. When we want to judge others, instead of throwing judgments at them like throwing rocks, let's take those judgments and put them at the foot of the cross. The cross reminds us that Jesus died to forgive our sins and pardon us. Would you say a closing prayer?

**Gordy:** Okay. Dear God, thank you for sending Jesus. Jesus, thank you for pardoning us, especially me because I goof up a lot. Help me not to judge others because you are the only one that can judge—and you forgave me. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**Don't hold a  
grudge and look  
down on a  
sinner.**

**Because Jesus  
is the *(judge)*  
who can make  
anyone a  
*(winner)*.**