**Live on Your Own**

**Day 1: Stone-Cold Trap**

Review the video for this session.



**Engage**

Read [John 8:1–11](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Jn8.1-11).

**Consider**

Jesus was in the middle of teaching a crowd, as He often did, when some religious teachers brought a woman who had been caught in adultery to Him. They brought her before Jesus, not to hold her accountable for breaking the Law, but to try and trap Jesus. Unfortunately for the woman, she was put on display in front of others as she experienced shame and embarrassment. Jesus then responded with a jaw-dropping response that no one expected. This probably left the religious leaders stunned as they walked away one by one.

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| **QUESTION**  Why do you think the religious leaders were so determined to trap Jesus? |

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| **QUESTION**  What does it say about Jesus that He had mercy for this woman despite her sin? |

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| **QUESTION**  Is it difficult for you to accept Jesus’ mercy when you sin? Why or why not? |

**Reflect**

What Jesus did for this woman, He still does for us today. He causes our accusers to walk away, leaving only Him, and then, He shows us mercy. But the Bible is very clear; sin separates us from God. It’s out of Jesus’ great love for us that He forgives us when we turn to Him.

Maybe you think you aren’t worthy of His forgiveness. As you continue to read through the Bible, you will see Jesus forgive people time and time again. The good news? You can experience His forgiveness and mercy as well.

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| **QUESTION**  How has this story impacted your life and relationship with Jesus? |

**Activate**

Take time to create a healthy habit of asking God regularly for forgiveness for any sins in your life. He will accept you as you are, but you need to humble yourself enough to go to Him and ask.

**Pray**

Dear God, thank You for helping me to climb out of the deep hole of sin that I get myself into. I know I do not deserve forgiveness and mercy, but I am grateful that You offer it to me anyway. I ask for Your forgiveness for any sins I’ve done, and I make a commitment to completely turn from that life and walk with You. Amen.

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**Day 2: You Can’t Handle the Truth!**

**Engage**

Read [Titus 3:1–8](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Tt3.1-8).

**Consider**

In this book of the New Testament, Paul was writing a letter to Titus who was helping a group of churches get back to the truth. The culture of the place Titus was ministering to was full of problems and meant that many of those problems needed challenging even among believers.

In these few verses, Paul focused on God’s kindness and the change His salvation can bring. No matter who you are or what you’ve done, God brings a transforming love. Even though we all have sinned against God, He offers every single one of us forgiveness and eternal life through His mercy.

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| **QUESTION**  According to verses [1–2](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Tt3.1-2), how are believers to live? |

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| **QUESTION**  In your own words, what do verses [4–5](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Tt3.4-5) mean to you? |

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| **QUESTION**  How are we made right in the sight of God? |

**Reflect**

As we walk through life and interact with others, we must remind ourself that we all have been disobedient to God in some way. This means that we must get rid of any pride that we are better than others. We should humble ourself and go to Jesus, asking for His mercy. Jesus wants us to continually recognize when we have sinned and then seek His forgiveness. It is only through His life-transforming love that we can receive His mercy.

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| **QUESTION**  Who is someone in your life who needs to hear about God’s mercy, and how can you share it with him or her? |

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| **QUESTION**  What message from today’s Bible verses do you want to share with the people in your life? |

**Activate**

What Paul said to Titus is such a foundational pillar in our relationship with Jesus. Write down and try to memorize [Titus 3:4–5](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Tt3.4-5). This way, you’ll always remember this explanation of Jesus’ mercy and forgiveness.

**Pray**

Dear Heavenly Father, help me to see the truth of who You are and what You offer to me. The world tries to convince me that it offers what I need to be satisfied, but You offer true security through Your forgiveness and mercy. Thank You for always loving me and seeing me when I am at my worst. Help me to speak mercy and truth to others who are dealing with sin. In Jesus’ name, I pray. Amen.

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**Day 3: Telling on Yourself**

**Engage**

Read [2 Samuel 12:1–9](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.2Sa12.1-9).

**Consider**

Prior this passage, King David had taken Bathsheba, another man’s wife, and committed adultery with her. To cover up his sin after she became pregnant, David gave orders that led to her husband being killed so David could take her as his own wife. As a result, David was confronted by the prophet Nathan.

Following this encounter, David repented and wrote [Psalm 51](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ps51). This is a perfect example of someone who was caught in the trap of sin, but came all the way around to genuine repentance. David recognized God’s mercy and pursued it in his life.

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| **QUESTION**  What did the Lord send Nathan to King David to do? |

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| **QUESTION**  What do you think David was feeling when he realized Nathan’s story was about him? |

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| **QUESTION**  Have you ever had someone confront you about your sin? How did you respond? |

**Reflect**

We see throughout Scripture that people recognized their sin and came to Jesus asking for forgiveness. King David’s story is such a great example because he was known as a man after God’s own heart. Many people may ask how a man after God’s heart could commit adultery and cover it up with murder. Only through the grace and mercy of God could David be called a man after God’s own heart. By the world’s standards, a man who did what David did shouldn’t be known as a hero of our faith. Yet God uses people who have turned away from their life of sin and now walk in their new life with Christ.

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| **QUESTION**  How would David’s life have been different if he had not received God’s forgiveness? |

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| **QUESTION**  How would your life be different if you never received God’s mercy? |

**Activate**

Read [Psalm 51](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ps51) that David wrote after this sin. Let it be a prayer as you read it.

**Pray**

Dear God, I pray that I can come to You in humility, like King David did. I know I make mistakes, but I am thankful that You don’t allow my past to determine how You love me and will use me in the future. Help me to show mercy to others and forgive others when they wrong me. Amen.

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**Day 4: He Did It for You**

**Engage**

Read [Romans 5:1–11](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ro5.1-11).

**Consider**

This letter of Paul to the church in Rome has a lot to say about the good news about Jesus. In these verses, Paul focused on the purpose of Jesus’ sacrifice. He explained how some people might be willing to die for someone good, but Jesus gave up His life for even those no one would call good. You see, God knew we could never be good enough on our own to have a good relationship with Him. So Jesus came, lived a sinless life, died, and rose from the dead so that we could become God’s friends.

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| **QUESTION**  What part does our faith play in our relationship with God? |

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| **QUESTION**  How did God show His love for us? |

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| **QUESTION**  Why can we now rejoice in our relationship with God? |

**Reflect**

Typically, when people do something good, they are rewarded. Yet, Jesus did something incredible for us even though we were unworthy. It is this unending love and kindness that the world needs to experience. We must never take for granted the price Jesus paid for us to be in right standing with Him. And we must do everything we can to encourage others to see this as well.

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| **QUESTION**  How does seeing what Jesus did for you impact your view of others who struggle with sin? |

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| **QUESTION**  Is it difficult for you to address sin in other people’s lives? Why or why not? |

**Activate**

Set your alarm to wake you up five minutes early tomorrow morning. Use those extra five minutes to pray for those struggling with sin. Then do your best to show the same forgiveness and love to them that Jesus has shown to you.

**Pray**

Dear Jesus, I can’t thank You enough for forgiving my sin and disobedience. Thank You for going to the Cross for me. I realize I don’t deserve Your mercy, but I thank You for it. I pray I can have that same love and mercy for those I interact with this week. Help me to do for them in the same way You have done for me. Amen.

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**Day 5: Doesn’t Deserve It**

**Engage**

Read [Luke 15:11–24](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Lk15.11-24).

**Consider**

Jesus told many parables in His ministry years. In this one, a young man wanted to live an extravagant and wasteful life, so he took the money he was given as an inheritance and left home. Perhaps you’ve been in a similar place. You’ve wanted to get out of the house and live on your own. You wanted to do your own thing, so to speak. Or maybe you have tried this, and now realize how foolish it was. This story gives a glimpse into the mercy of our Heavenly Father. He welcomes us back with open arms and is ready to celebrate our return to a relationship with Him.

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| **QUESTION**  If you were the father in this story, do you think you could have forgiven your son? Why or why not? |

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| **QUESTION**  What emotions do you think the son was feeling as he walked back to his father’s house? |

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| **QUESTION**  Is it easy or difficult for you to believe that God responds to those who have turned their back on Him the same way the father in this story did? Why? |

**Reflect**

Our Father in heaven is like the father in the story. It doesn’t matter how far away we run or what we have done in disobedience. God loves us too much not to welcome us back in. Sadly, many of us think like the son, and we don’t believe we deserve to return to Him. However, that is just the devil filling our mind with doubts and lies. God cares too much about you to leave you in your sin. When you turn to God and leave your sinful life, He and all of heaven celebrate.

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| **QUESTION**  Think about a time you made a sinful decision. What did you think God’s response would be? Why? |

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| **QUESTION**  Which devotion stood out to you most during this past week? Why? |

**Activate**

Think about someone who you felt wronged you and reflect on how that hurt. This is what God feels when we disobey Him with a life of sin. Now imagine yourself forgiving that person if you haven’t done so already as you recognize God’s mercy in your own life.

**Pray**

Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for welcoming me back into Your family. I want to do everything I can to live for You and be the best example I can be to others. For the times I have run away from You, I am sorry and ask for Your forgiveness. Help me to embrace Your mercy as I encourage others to live for You. In Jesus’ name, I pray. Amen.