



Week Three: Everything I've Ever Done – Study Guide

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It's the *images* all around that shape our lives and how we interact with our world. In this series we have learned how inaccurate our assumptions of others, and even ourselves, can be. But, what if our lives really are mired with the ugliness of sin? What if there is truth to the assumptions? Some do well masking their issues, and some can't. Jesus sees things as they really are, both the good and the bad. This week we are taking a closer look into a very simple testimony that changed one woman's entire world—everything I've ever done.

Where Am I Today?

- 1) To have someone reach out to you at a low point in your life, or during a time of need, is unlike anything else. The reassurance that someone cares for you in spite of your situation is not easily forgotten. Have you experienced this? Were you the recipient or did you reach out to someone? Was it impactful? Explain.
- 2) If you were to reach out to offer help, would you require that person's moral or spiritual compass be pointing in a "good" direction? Why?
- 3) Have you ever experienced being judged or accused of something? If yes, did it affect how you viewed your image? Have you ever made accusations or judgments of others?

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Into the Bible

- 4) It's never fun to be called out while doing something stupid. It's funny for the 4th grader shooting his friend with rubber bands across the classroom—until it catches the attention of the teacher. Life can go from normal to humiliating in a matter of seconds. In the Bible, the book of John, in chapter 8, gives an account of a woman who got caught in a not so favorable situation. Read **John 7:53-8:3**. Before whom was this woman standing? Could you imagine the details of the lowest points of your life going public?

- 5) Read **John 8:4-11**. This is our model of forgiveness. For a moment, put yourself in that position of humiliation with this woman. What rushes over you during the question and response of Christ in verses 10 and 11? If you could find the words, what would you say to Jesus?

- 6) Read **John 4:5-30** and answer the following:
 - a) In verses 7 through 9, describe how image was shaping the beginning of this woman's conversation.
 - b) In verses 16 through 19, what was revealed to the Samaritan? Was the preconceived image of Jesus being a prophet accurate, or was she still trying to put it all together?
 - c) Is it reassuring to see how patient Jesus was, even though He knew all her baggage?

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How Does This Apply?

- 7) The two women of **John 4** and **John 8** would be forever changed after their encounter with God. Was the public image of either woman one of acceptance? How did the church at that time welcome them?

- 8) Read **Revelation 12:10**. Who is the Accuser? Have you ever accused someone, falsely or otherwise? When we take on the image of accusation, we take on the image of an enemy. And most dangerously, sometimes we falsely justify our accusations by using scripture. In **John 8:5-6**, are the Scribes and Pharisees using scripture? If so, what makes them wrong?

Prayer Focus

This series, **we are praying for people who are created in the image of God** around the world. Here is a specific way you can be praying this week:

Sexual Exploitation of Children

Pray for the estimated two million boys and girls involved in the global sex trade. These abuses happen across the globe, and in our backyards.

See www.covechurch.org/prayerfocus for links to further reading on this topic.

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Increase Your Learning on Your Own

- 9) "We will introduce our friends to Jesus" is line one of our Mission Statement here at The Cove. When thinking of how to tell your friends about Jesus, are you confident, and do you feel you have the right words to say? Read **John 4:28-30**. What was her testimony? Is this quite simple in comparison to what you would say? Read **John 4:39-42**. Was her testimony impactful?
- 10) Read **Luke 23:39-43**. In light of the woman at the well, and the woman caught in adultery, how can we best help our world understand that Jesus does not need, nor require us, to "straighten out" before He comes so graciously and lovingly into our lives?