

PEER PRESSURE

THE WOMAN CAUGHT IN ADULTERY But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. At dawn he appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered around him, and he sat down to teach them.

The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group and said to Jesus, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. in the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him. But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "If anyone of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her." Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground. At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" "No one, sir," she said. "Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared, "Go now and leave your life of sin." John 8:1-11

1. Who do you feel most sorry for in this story? 0 the woman-for being publicly humiliated
0 Jesus-for being pressured by the crowd 0 the religious leaders-for stooping this low

2. If you had been Jesus when the woman caught in the act of adultery was brought before him, how would you have felt? 0 embarrassed

0 angry at the Pharisees 0 ashamed of the woman 0 torn between mixed feelings
0 intimidated by the Pharisees 0 mad for being put on the spot 0 sorry for the woman

3. Who do you admire for the way they don't cave in to the pressure of the crowd?

4. When it comes to going against the crowd, who are the hardest people for you to stand up against?

0 supervisors / authority figures 0 friends at school or work 0 friends at church
0 spouse / boyfriend / girlfriend 0 parents / family members 0 other:

5. How tough is it to face the following pressures from the crowd? Rate yourself from 1 to 10 share with the group your easiest and your hardest.

ABUSING DRUGS OR ALCOHOL

Easy 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Hard

LYING TO COVER UP WRONGDOING

Easy 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Hard

KEEPING UP WITH FRIENDS IN MATERIAL THINGS

Easy 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Hard

CURSING / PROFANITY / DIRTY JOKES

Easy 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Hard

RAUNCHY MOVIES, MAGAZINES, ETC.

Easy 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Hard

NOT STANDING UP FOR YOUR FAITH

Easy 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Hard

6. What have you found helpful in dealing with peer pressure? 0 attend church regularly
0 study the Bible and pray 0 stay away from the wrong crowd
0 just say no 0 let others know where I stand on issues and why

7. What grade would you give your group or church on how well you support each other and stand together against peer pressure? 0 I would give us an A+. 0 Well, I'd give us a C-
0 I'd give us a B+ for effort. 0 I'm sorry you asked.

8. If the woman who was caught in adultery came to your group or church, how would she feel?
0 weird 0 tried and convicted 0 uncomfortable at first 0 right at home

9. What do you do when you blow it? 0 crawl into a hole 0 try to be extra good
0 confess it to God and move on 0 shrug it off 0 confess it to another person

10. How does the way Jesus treated this woman help you face your sins?

11. How can the group pray for you?