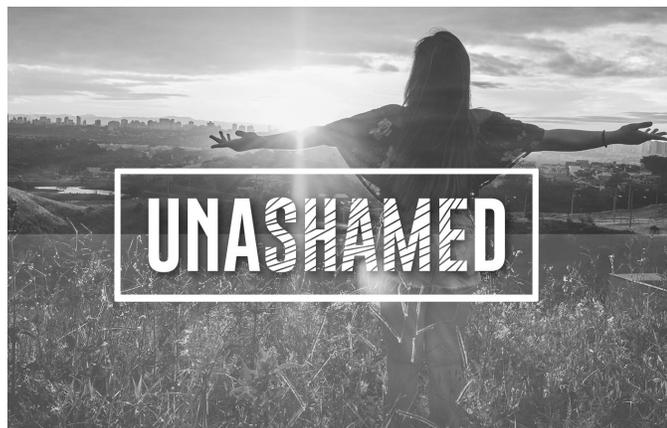


SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



**PRINCE
OF PEACE**
Called to Connect



Impact

May 4 & 5, 2019

This week we're going to explore what shame does to us and how it impacts us and our relationships with ourselves, others and God. A healthy sense of shame highlights our limitations as human. We were made for partnership, dependence and relationship with God. A healthy response to shame is to tend to the wounds within which caused the shame and to cry out to God for help. Being present to our pain and seeking help is part of what it means to be fully human.

SCRIPTURE TEXT : JOHN 8:2-11

Read the scripture text together as a group.

BACKGROUND INFO

The context of the story is the Feast of Tabernacles. All week during the festival, the rabbis have been teaching about water and thirst – in part as a platform for appealing to God to bring the winter rains, and metaphorically to teach about spiritual thirst. On the last day of the festival (the day on which this story happens) the priest would pour out a pitcher of water and a pitcher of wine onto the altar and the people would cry out, “Hosanna” or “God save us”. In this case, they were begging God to save them by sending rain. Lots of people gathered in Jerusalem for the festival, and lots of feasting and drinking went on. How common would it be for people to accidentally wind up in tents that weren't their own, and into the arms of someone not their spouse, only to wake up the next day in deep regret. Perhaps that's what happened to the woman caught in the act of adultery.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What do you think about Jesus' reaction to the religious leaders?
- How do you think the woman felt in this situation?
- What truth can we proclaim from this story?
- When has religion or Church been a source of shame in your life?
- How has shame impacted your relationships?

APPLICATION: This week, take notice of the relationships in your life and consider how shame may be impacting the level of intimacy. Is there a step you can take to regain a stronger connection?