



## Mercy transforms

Week 1: Wednesday



### Reading

**John 8.3-11**

The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery; and making her stand before all of them, they said to him, 'Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?' They said this to test him, so that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, 'Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.' And once again he bent down and wrote on the ground. When they heard it, they went away, one by one, beginning with the elders; and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. Jesus straightened up and said to her, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?' She said, 'No one, sir.' And Jesus said, 'Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again.'

### Reflection

**We live in a judgmental society, quick to cancel people, surrounded by disorder, conflict, and suffering.**

In such an imperfect world, where people can be hurtful, systems can fail, and life feels overwhelming, mercy becomes a crucial and transformative response. We find hope knowing that all things are held by our merciful God.

Jesus' response to the woman caught in adultery reflects his mercy and challenges us not to judge others. He forgives her and calls her to a new life, free from sin and shame. God's love and forgiveness are free gifts – and in gratitude, we are called to extend the same mercy to others.

We are challenged to show mercy not out of obligation, but because we have already received it. We do not offer mercy from an empty place, but from the abundance of grace God has given us.

### Challenge

In what situations is it hardest to be merciful? Perhaps on social media, with politicians or other drivers on the road! What might a merciful response look like in the situations that come to mind?



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Taken from the *Living Hope* booklets published by [Church House Publishing](#).

The adults' reflections have been written by Cathrine Fungai-Ngangira and Belle Tindall (both among the authors of *Wild Bright Hope: The Big Church Read Lent Book 2025* (SPCK)) and Victoria Mason.

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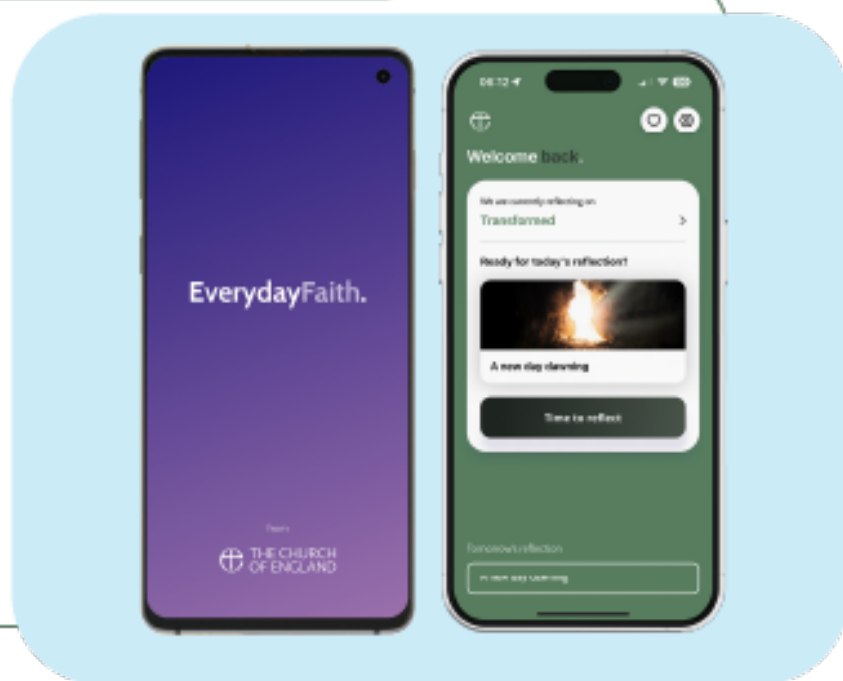
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