

# English Language resources: Homework activities – John 8: 1-11

## Questions on Biblical texts: John 8:1-11

The following text is from chapter 8 of the Gospel of John in the New Testament of the *King James Bible*. The *King James Bible (KJB)* was first translated in 1611 and was revised in 1769. This is the version in general use today.

This is the story of Jesus' encounter with a woman who had been caught committing adultery.

- A. Identify the following archaic grammatical forms in the text and rewrite them in modern standard English:

1. The word order of a question
2. The word order of a negative
3. Obsolete pronouns
4. Unusual word order
5. Obsolete verb formations\*\*.

- B. Identify words that come into the lexical field of crime and punishment. How are they expressed? What effect do they have on the text?

- C. Refer to the methods for analysis. What can you say about the context of this text?

### John 8:1-11 KJB

<sup>1</sup> Jesus went unto the mount of Olives.

<sup>2</sup> And early in the morning he came again into the temple, and all the people came unto him; and he sat down, and taught them.

<sup>3</sup> And the scribes and Pharisees brought unto him a woman taken in adultery; and when they had set her in the midst,

<sup>4</sup> They say unto him, Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act.

<sup>5</sup> Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what sayest thou?

<sup>6</sup> This they said, tempting him, that they might have to accuse him. But Jesus stooped down, and with his finger wrote on the ground, as though he heard them not.

<sup>7</sup> So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her.

<sup>8</sup> And again he stooped down, and wrote on the ground.

<sup>9</sup> And they which heard it, being convicted by their own conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst.

<sup>10</sup> When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee?

<sup>11</sup> She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.

\*\* Suggested answers to Q5:

- a) What savest thou?
- b) As though he heard them not
- c) thou / thee
- d) Neither do I condemn thee
- e) they had set her ... taken in adultery