



Northland Christian Church Group Discussion Guide For the Week of May 29, 2022

Use the questions below as a springboard for discussion. You do not have to answer every question. Pick the ones you think will be helpful. Remember, Ultimately we want God's answers, not man's opinions. Always land where God lands. (ex: Where do we see that in the Bible?) Give grace. Give time for growth. Don't force it. Growth takes time, love, good questions, & support.

Connect

- How are you like a parent, grandparent, or other family member?
- Peaks & Pits—Share about the best and worst part of your day or week?

Context

We continue looking at John chapter 8 this week. In the beginning of the chapter the Pharisees and religious leaders are trying to set up a trap for Jesus so that they can accuse and prosecute Him. Even though it looked like Jesus was in a no-win situation, Jesus astounds and astonishes them with His wisdom, grace, and compassion in ministering to and restoring a woman caught in sin to a life of dignity and value.

Jesus then describes Himself as the Light of the world. This continues to anger and annoy the religious leaders and they continue to accuse Jesus of being a false witness and going against God and Abraham.

In our passage today, Jesus again turns the tables on the religious leaders and reveals their lies, falsehood, and real family resemblance - they are children of the devil. Their lives, like ours, always reveal the reality of beliefs, loyalty, and allegiances. Jesus also reveals the reality, methods, schemes, and goals of the enemy of our souls - the devil (aka satan, the accuser, lucifer, etc.) - the father of lies and all evil.

In the process, Jesus teaches all of humanity all about Truth and Freedom. What it is, what it isn't and how we can find and live in that freedom and truth in order to experience a life of apprenticeship to Jesus - which produces freedom and flourishing.

Engage the Bible

Read the passage and share Surprises, Takeaways, and Observations from:

John 8:31-38 and 8:42-44 ESV

“So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” 33 They answered him, “We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, ‘You will become free?’” 34 Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. 35 The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. 36 So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. 37 I know that you are offspring of Abraham; yet you seek to kill me because my word finds no place in you. 38 I speak of what I have seen with my Father, and you do what you have heard from your father... 42 Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me. 43 Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear my word. 44 You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.”

Discuss

1. What does it mean to you to be free? What doesn't it mean?
2. According to Jesus in verse 31, what do His disciples do?
3. How do Jesus' teachings set us free?
4. Who did Jesus say is a slave? (see verse 34)
5. To what sort of things do people today become enslaved?
6. How (or from what) has Jesus set you free?
7. How does truth set someone free?
8. What signs do you see in your day to day life of the devil's lies?
9. Over what area of your life do you feel you have the least amount of control?
10. Who did Jesus say the Jews were following, listening to, and therefore children of? What can we learn from this?
11. What are the "family resemblances" in your own life? What things in your life reflect God as your Father? What doesn't? What might these things reveal about your family tree?
12. If time, Read [John 8:39-59](#).
13. How did the Jews respond to Jesus' teaching?
14. How do you usually respond to things you don't understand or can't explain? Situations you can't control?
15. What are the "biggest items" on your schedule this week: How can you honor God with your life this week?
16. When God shows the truth about your own brokenness, do you respond with humility or with defensiveness? How can you choose humility?

End Your Group Time in Prayer

