

SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

JOHN 5:18-29

DISCUSSION 1: DIVINITY OF JESUS

1. What has Jesus said or done in John so far that demonstrates his divinity or being God? What are ways people have responded to Jesus in John?
2. Read John 1:14, 18; Col. 2:9; Heb. 1:1-3; 2 Cor. 4:4. What does it mean that Jesus is the exact image and perfect expression of God in human flesh? How might this help us view and relate to God rightly rather than through error, confusion, fear, or misguided emotions?
3. Why might it be significant in John 5:19 that it says, “*Whatever* the Father does, the Son does likewise”? In other words, anything and everything the Father does, that’s what the Son does. But the Son does nothing the Father doesn’t do. Why was this teaching important for Jesus’ audience to understand?
4. As you’ve seen the divinity and humanity of Jesus through five chapters of John, are there any ways it has grown your faith, trust, worship, or obedience? Talk about ways you might better lean into what we see of Jesus each week to trust in and find joy in God.

DISCUSSION 2: AUTHORITY OF JESUS

1. After reading John 5:18-29, how would you respond to someone who says all religious roads lead to one God, so believing in Jesus for salvation isn’t necessary?
2. Considering things we’ve read in John or what you can recall from the gospels, what are ways or areas in which Jesus demonstrates authority? For example: Jesus demonstrates authority over weather and water by calming the seas. How might reflecting on the authority of Jesus in specific areas comfort or encourage you in things you’re facing right now?
3. Spend time discussing a struggle, pain, discouragement, issue in life, temptation, or trial during this season (these would be great things to pray over as a group during your time together). Without minimizing the reality of what they’re facing, after someone shares, together as a group discuss how the divinity and authority of Jesus might apply and give strength to them in what they’re facing.

DISCUSSION 3: RESURRECTION IN JESUS

1. What is the connection between those who “hear” Christ’s teachings now and find new life (5:24) and those who “hear” his voice at the resurrection and find eternal life? What is Jesus stressing about how we should respond to his word and teachings?
2. Read John 4:42; 5:20, 25; 6:63; 8:47; 10:3, 16, 27 and notice the role of *hearing*. Since John emphasizes us hearing—meaning believing and responding to—the word of God, how might this teach us about the importance of truly listening and responding when we read or hear God’s Word? Are there any small ways you might need to adjust your approach to Sunday morning worship, small group, or your personal time in the Word to better hear and better respond to the Bible?

3. Throughout John 5 (and John as a whole), Jesus has been teaching and demonstrating that the power of life is in his hands. He can restore physical life, give spiritual life, and grant eternal life. What are some of the broken, damaged, and even dead spots in your own world today where you need Jesus to restore life? How can you trust him to do so and walk by faith in this new life?
4. What are ways considering future judgment—either resurrected for life with God or an eternity apart from him—might help us in our Christian walk? How might the future resurrection when life is restored to God’s people (believers) and place (new earth) encourage us during suffering?

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

1. How do we know Jesus is fully God? How do we know he is fully Man?
2. Jesus has authority over all things and the power of life. Are there any fears, worries, temptations, or sorrow this can encourage us in?

APPLICATION

- **Group:** Either within your discussion or afterwards, spend time sharing burdens and struggles with one another so you both pray together over them as well as talk about how Jesus’ authority and life-giving power might help us approach things with faith and a God-centered perspective. It can also be helpful to have people share stories of God’s faithfulness, goodness, and deliverance in the past so we remember with thanksgiving and trust.
- **Individual:** Asking a friend in your small group to help you commit to really leaning into hearing and responding to the Word of God this year. Come up with a few practical ways you can better do this as you listen to preaching on Sunday, read the Bible on your own or with others, and even how you approach studying and applying the Bible with your small group.

FOR FURTHER STUDY

- **Divinity of Jesus:** Col. 1:15-17; 2:9; Luke 22:70; John 10:30; 20:28; 1 Peter 1:2.
- **Hearing Christ’s Words:** John 4:42; 5:20, 25; 6:63; 8:47; 10:3, 16, 27.