

SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

John 8:31-47

Ice-breaker: Do you have any humorous habits? Is there a habit you used to have been able to quit?

Ice-breaker: What is an evidence of God's grace you've seen this week?

DISCUSSION 1: Truth That Sets Us Free (John 8:31)

1. What images, synonyms, or words come to mind when you think of the word "abide"?
2. What does it look like to abide in Christ's teaching? What keeps us from abiding in Christ?
3. What tools and gifts of grace has God given to us to help us abide in Jesus?

DISCUSSION 2: Freedom vs. Slavery (John 8:32-38)

1. What does Jesus mean when he says, "the truth will set you free"? What do we need to be set free from and what is the truth that breaks the bonds of slavery?
2. How do Jesus' hearers **misunderstand** what Jesus is saying? What is their explanation for not being slaves? What about their lives shows us that they are not free but spiritual slaves?
3. If Jesus has set us free from the bonds of sin, why do we often still live as if sin has power over us?
4. How do we fight the clutches of sin that remain in our hearts? What are some ways we prove that Jesus has truly set us free from sin?
5. Can anyone share a time when they remember being freed from the clutches of sin after meeting Jesus?

DISCUSSION 3: Who's Your Daddy? (John 8:39-47)

1. How does our culture talk about the devil? How should Christians understand the work and power of the devil today?
2. Read the passages about the devil in the "for further study" section and discuss how the Scriptures instruct us to fight against the devil.
3. How does Satan tempt us to believe that we are not in a spiritual war?
4. How is gathering with God's people each Sunday spiritual warfare against the devil? What other spiritual weapons and armor does God give us to resist the devil?
5. How can your group help one another fight the clutches of sin and the lies of the devil?

FOR FURTHER STUDY

- **Abide:** John 8:31; John 15:1-11; 2 John 9.
- **Slavery vs. Freedom:** Heb. 12:1-2, Acts 13:38-39; Rom. 6:16-23; 8:1-2; Gal. 5:1, 13; 2 Peter 2:19.
- **Resist the Devil:** James 4:7, I Peter 5:8, Hebrews 2:14, Ephesians 2:1-5, 6:10-12, Col. 2:13-15, I John 4:4, Rev. 20:7-10