

## **Title: Who Is Your Father?**

**Big idea:** Real faith in the Son reveals our real connection to the Father.

8:31 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.

To abide: to remain or be attached: like a branch in a vine.

Anyone can profess anything in the short term, but what matters is faithful followers & fruitful branches.

### **1. Real faith lasts.**

32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

33 They answered Him, “We are Abraham’s descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone. How *can* You say, ‘You will be made free?’” 34 Jesus answered them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. 35 And a slave does not abide in the house forever, *but* a son abides forever. 36 Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.

Commit (poy-eh’-o) to make or produce.

### **2. Real faith lives in freedom.**

37 “I know that you are Abraham’s descendants, but you seek to kill Me, because My word has no place in you. 38 I speak what I have seen with My Father, and you do what you have seen with your father.” 39 They answered and said to Him, “Abraham is our father.” Jesus said to them, “If you were Abraham’s children, you would do the works of Abraham. 40 But now you seek to kill Me, a Man who has told you the truth which I heard from God. Abraham did not do this. 41 You do the deeds of your father.” Then they said to Him, “We were not born of fornication; we have one Father—God.”

### **3. Real faith is grieved by sin & practices righteousness.**

42 Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and came from God; nor have I come of Myself, but He sent Me. 43 Why do you not understand My speech? Because you are not able to listen to My word. 44 You are of *your* father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *resources*, for he is a liar and the father of it.

Jesus makes it clear, the devil is real, and he has a plan and uses people to fulfill his plan.

### **4. Real faith resists the devil.**

I Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. 9 Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.

45 But because I tell the truth, you do not believe Me. 46 Which of you convicts Me of sin? And if I tell the truth, why do you not believe Me? 47 He who is of God hears God’s words; therefore you do not hear, because you are not of God.”

**48** Then the Jews answered and said to Him, “Do we not say rightly that You are a Samaritan and have a demon?”

**49** Jesus answered, “I do not have a demon; but I honor My Father, and you dishonor Me. **50** And I do not seek My *own* glory; there is One who seeks and judges. **51** Most assuredly, I say to you, if anyone keeps My word he shall never see death.”

**52** Then the Jews said to Him, “Now we know that You have a demon! Abraham is dead, and the prophets; and You say, ‘If anyone keeps My word he shall never taste death.’ **53** Are You greater than our father Abraham, who is dead? And the prophets are dead. Who do You make Yourself out to be?”

**54** Jesus answered, “If I honor Myself, My honor is nothing. It is My Father who honors Me, of whom you say that He is your God. **55** Yet you have not known Him, but I know Him. And if I say, ‘I do not know Him,’ I shall be a liar like you; but I do know Him and keep His word. **56** Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw *it* and was glad.” **57** Then the Jews said to Him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?”

**58** Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.” **59** Then they took up stones to throw at Him; but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.

## **5. Real faith rejoices in God’s work.**

## **6. Real faith is a choice.**

### **LIFE Group Guide:**

**(Adjust as appropriate for your group’s needs.)**

5-10 minutes connecting personally with how everyone is doing.

45 minutes going over message with discussion questions and life applications.

5-10 minutes praying for each other

### **Discussion Questions**

Look over these questions before your group time. Write down your answers or ideas for at least a few questions if not all. You may not get to every question during your time, but speak up if you want to talk about one of them in particular. Always try to start with question #1.

1. What stood out to you and/or what do you think God might be speaking about from this message?
2. Jesus says true disciples "abide" in His word—remaining attached like a branch to a vine. What does abiding look like in practical, everyday terms?
3. What’s the difference between being tempted by sin and planning/practicing sin? Why does this distinction matter?
4. The religious leaders trusted in their "works without faith." How can we guard against that kind of error?
5. How does the devil use people for his plan? What practical steps can we take to resist the devil? (James 4:7; 1 Peter 5:8-9)?
6. When was the last time you really rejoiced over what God has done? Can you share what it was?