



## Small Group Study Questions

Sermon on November 5th, 2023 - Week 8

### John 8:28-36 (NASB)

28 So Jesus said, "When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am, and I do nothing on My own, but I say these things as the Father instructed Me. 29 And He who sent Me is with Me; He has not left Me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to Him." 30 As He said these things, many came to believe in Him.

31 So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in My word, then 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 Abraham's descendants 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 commits sin is a slave of sin. 35 Now the slave does not remain in the house forever; the son does remain forever. 36 So if the Son sets you free, you really will be free.

## DIGGING DEEPER

Ponder the word “Freedom.” How does our concept of freedom as Americans differ from other countries? Does freedom mean that anything goes? Explain your answer.

### Read John 8:28-30

What is Jesus’ main message to the people in these verses?

Verse 30 repeats what has happened all throughout John’s gospel (see John 2:11; 2:23; 4:39; 4:41; 4:53; 7:31). Were people then more ready to believe than now, or do people have the same propensity toward belief? Why?

### Read John 8:31-32

Who is Jesus talking to in these verses? What does it mean to “continue in my word”?

How does he say one can go from being just a believer to a believing disciple of his?

Use the following chart that explains how John teaches us the difference between non-believers, believers, non-disciples, and disciples:

<b>Non-Believer   Non-Disciple</b> <i>Example:</i> Those who don’t believe - John 3:16	<b>Non-Believer   Disciple</b> No Saving Faith but Publicly Confession Jesus <i>Example:</i> Early Disciples - John 6:64; Judas
<b>Believer   Non-Disciple</b> Private Saving Faith with No Public Confession <i>Example:</i> Everyone who believes - John 3:16; Nicodemus - John 7:50; Rulers - John 12:42	<b>Believer   Disciple</b> Private Saving Faith with Public Confession <i>Example:</i> Those who continue - John 8:31; The 11 Disciples; Nicodemus - John 19:39

It’s clear from these verses that one can be a believer, but not a disciple. It’s also clear that one can be a disciple but has never actually believed. Jesus calls all to believe and then to become his disciples. A disciple in John’s gospel is a public confessor of Christ to the world around them.

## DIGGING DEEPER

How public are you about your faith in Christ?

**Read John 8:33-36** (The “They” here refers back to the Jews in verse 22 because of what Jesus says in verse 37)

What does it mean to be a slave to sin, and how can one be set free from this slavery, according to this passage?

How is this freedom that Jesus gives different from other forms of freedom?

Reflect on the contrast between bondage to sin and the freedom offered through believing in Jesus. How does this relate to your own life and experiences?

## TAKING IT HOME

## PRAYER REQUEST

