

Dear Life Group Leaders,

There's a lot to cover this week! We're splitting this longer section in to three chunks with some application questions at the end. The dialogues we're exploring today can feel dense and technical in places. But they point us to some fundamental truths about who Jesus claimed to be. These are verses worth wrestling with!

God bless, take care and stay strong,

Andy *(This week's Life Group Guide is brought to you by Andy Tuck who works for our Wimbledon Venue)*

LIFE GROUP GUIDE

John 8:13-59

This Week's BIG IDEA: Recognising who Jesus is and following him will set us free.

PART A - Please read John 8:13-30

1. v13-18, what is the Pharisees complaint against Jesus? What point does Jesus make in response?
[Leaders note: Jesus calls God the Father as his witness.]
2. v19-20, what mistake are the Pharisees making here? What does their question reveal about them?
[Leaders note: It's like they are asking Jesus to introduce them to a biological father. But Jesus answers that this shows they don't know who God the Father is.]
3. v21-23, where is Jesus going? What fate awaits those who don't believe in Jesus?
4. v25-30, what vindication does Jesus offer for his claims?
[Leaders note: in v28 Jesus points them ahead to his death, resurrection and ascension.]
5. How would you summarise the confusion the Pharisees express in these verses? Do you recognise this confusion in your own understanding or the understanding of others about who Jesus is?

PART B - Please read John 8:31-47

6. v31, what is Jesus encouraging those who have expressed a commitment to him to do?
[Leaders note: it's to hold on to his teaching. That is, to actively apply it to their beliefs and behaviours, not just make a one off statement of commitment.]
7. v32-38, what does holding on to Jesus' teaching set us free from?
[Leaders note: note the ridiculousness of this group's answer in v33... they are seemingly not very familiar with their own national story (Moses and the Exodus, captivity in Babylon), or blinded by national pride despite being currently occupied by the Romans.]
8. v39-47, what do we learn about the desires of the devil from these verses?
9. What choice is presented to us in this section?
[Leaders note: Believe Jesus and that truth will set you free. Or be enslaved by the devil's lies.]

PART C - Please read John 8:48-59

10. v48-53, why do they claim that Jesus is demon-possessed?
11. v54-59, why do they pick up stones to kill Jesus?

PART D - Reflect on this passage as a whole

12. What has characterised these exchanges?
13. How do these verses challenge our societies view of truth?
14. What have we learnt about Jesus?
15. How are you planning on holding on to Jesus' teaching this week?