

Leader's Guide

Standing with Jesus: Love Him or Hate Him

John 8:21-30

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Will we stand with Jesus - loving Him, trusting Him, and choosing to follow Him each day - or will we drift away and stay unchanged? Jesus' words in John 8 remind us of how deeply He loves us and how urgently He calls us to believe. We're invited to look honestly at what's shaping our hearts, to name anything that's pulling us away from Him, and to respond to His grace today. As we do, we're encouraged not only to grow in our own faith, but to care deeply for the people around us and share the hope and love we've found in Jesus with those who need it most.

Discussion Questions with Leader Notes

1. Where do you see yourself right now on the spectrum of standing with Jesus? Are you fully trusting and following Him, or feeling distracted, hesitant, or distant? What has been shaping that lately?

Follow-Up Prompts:

- Has this season shifted your faith in any way?

Helpful Scripture:

- Psalm 139:7–10
 - Romans 8:38–39
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2. Jesus speaks with both urgency and love in John 8. How do you personally experience that tension in your own relationship with Him? Where do you feel His invitation, and where do you feel resistance?

Follow-Up Prompts:

- When have you felt God clearly inviting you to respond or change?
- What emotions come up when you sense that urgency—peace, fear, resistance, hope?

Leader Clarification: Urgency is not manipulation. Jesus' urgency flows from love and the desire for life, not condemnation.

Helpful Scripture:

- John 3:16–17
 - 2 Peter 3:9
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3. What are some “from this world” influences (priorities, habits, fears, or comforts) that compete for your loyalty to Jesus? How do you notice those showing up in everyday decisions?

Follow-Up Prompts:

- Are there warning signs that tell you something is starting to take Jesus’ place?

Helpful Scripture:

- Romans 12:1–2
 - 1 John 2:15–17
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4. Who is someone in your life that you sense Jesus might be inviting you to care for or share your faith with? What’s one simple, faithful step you could take this week?

Follow-Up Prompts:

- What fears or hesitations come up when you think about that person?
- What could sharing look like beyond words? (Examples: presence, kindness, invitation?)

Leader Clarification: Sharing faith is often relational and gradual. Faithfulness matters more than outcomes.

Helpful Scripture:

- Matthew 5:14–16
 - Colossians 4:5–6
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5. What would it look like for you to move one step closer to fully standing with Jesus this week? Is there a specific practice, conversation, or act of obedience you feel led to take?

Follow-Up Prompts:

- Is there a habit to begin, stop, or surrender?
- Who could help support or encourage you in this step?

Helpful Scripture:

- James 1:22
- Luke 9:23