

John 8:37-59

CG Discussion Guide// Week of April 16, 2023

INTRODUCTION

- Icebreaker: What is your go-to snack?
- Take some time to pray for one another's needs and requests (refer to Prayer Guide as needed)
- Pray for Harbor Network sister church: Four Oaks Killlearn, Tallahassee, FL (Pastor: Paul Gilbert)
- Choose discussion questions, prayer guide, or abide time questions depending on your group's needs

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- What sticks out to you concerning the debate between Jesus and his Jewish questioners?
- In the passage, Jesus presents truth and lies/slanders as not just questions of brute fact, but a spiritual difference between God's children and the children of the devil. In the passage's context, the question is whether Jesus is truly Divine (from the Father and is also the great "I AM") or not. And the determining factor of belief is whether one is of God or of the devil.
 - How should we respond when we encounter slander, opposition, rejection, hostility, and threats of violence when we share Jesus' truth, especially knowing that such hostile responses show the true spiritual state of our opposers?
 - How should Jesus's approach to truth about Him inform our approach in matters of truth in general (like honesty, accuracy, faithfulness, transparency, accountability, etc.) in our personal lives and relationships?
 - If you are willing, could you share some personal examples where slander and lies hurt you or your relationships? (Could be your own failing that the Lord has saved you from or the sin of lying/slander done against you or your loved ones)
 - Please also share personal stories where telling the truth/standing for truth (especially standing for Christ's truth) proved its worth.
- What are some slanders or lies you have heard recently about Jesus, His teachings, and His followers? What are some corresponding answers, facts, truth, and/or corrections that meet that lie or slander?
- Some people have wrongly taken this passage's teachings as a license for hatred and persecuting those who reject Jesus. How do we combat that temptation in our own lives? Please share some Bible examples, if you're able, that combat the temptation to hate and persecute our opposition.
- In what ways can we grow as people of truth, especially of the truth of Christ?

Abide Time: John 8:37-59

- What realities are you facing this week? What is occupying your thoughts? How do you feel?

- Read the passage and let God speak to you in you reality through his Word. Write down your reflections as God shepherds you:
 - What does the text say is true about God and his character?

 - What does it say about the world around you?

- How do your reflections above speak to your reality?

- What did you experience in your heart and soul as God spoke to you and your reality?

- What did you experience in your body, given your reflections and what you experienced in your heart and soul?

- How is God inviting you to live differently?

- What does all of what you shared above say about God and his relationship with you?

WEEKLY PRAYER GUIDE

The Bible promises that anything we ask for in Jesus' name – that is according to His will – shall be granted to us (John 14:13-14). In view of this great promise, the prayer requests are all grounded in Scripture. When we pray Scripture, we can be certain that we are praying according to God's will.

That does not mean God will grant our requests in our preferred time or according to our frail wisdom; but it does mean that we can pray confidently knowing that God delights to answer these requests, for they are His words.

Use the accompanying Scripture verses to shape and inform your prayers.

PRAY FOR YOURSELF & YOUR FAMILY:

- That your daily life will bring honor to the name of Jesus – (2 Thess. 1:11-12)
- That you will cast all of your anxieties on God – (1 Peter 5:6-7)
- That you will consider your trials as an opportunity for joy – (James 1:2-4)

PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH:

- That the power of Christ will rest on our church and ministries [Worship Gathering, Community Groups, Men/Women, Youth, Children, etc.] – (2 Cor. 12:9-10)
- That God will give us the wisdom and faith that we desperately need to continue in faithful mission – (James 1:5-8)
- That God will make us fruitful in ministry – (John 15:1-2) – and bold in witness – (Eph. 6:18-20)

PRAY FOR OUR CITY:

- That God will give wisdom to our government (local, state, and national) that we may lead peaceful, godly lives – (1 Timothy 2:1-2)
- That the Lord will continue to provide open doors of gospel ministry in IU and the Bloomington community– (1 Corinthians 16:9)
- That the work of God will be displayed in the lives of the members of our sister churches – (John 9:3)

PRAY FOR OUR WORLD:

- That the persecuted church will find fellowship with Jesus as they share in his sufferings – (Philippians 3:10-11)
- That the Lord of the harvest will send out more workers to unreached people groups because they have been gripped by Paul's missionary logic in Romans 10:13-17 – (Matthew 9:37-38)
- That Christ will return bringing the fullness of salvation with him – (Revelation 22:20)

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- April 30: Celebration/Baptism Sunday
- May 3: Members Meeting
- May 10: Redeemer Men
- May 14: Mothers' Day
- May 21: Redeemer-in-10

Reminder: All events are listed in the Events tab in our Redeemer app. You can RSVP for specific events by going to the Events tab, clicking on an event, and following the link to register.