

“Closer Walk” Bible Study

The Gospel Of John Chapter 8:31-58

Purpose: To share lives around the Scripture and through the power and presence of the Holy Spirit make happy and unexpected discoveries that change our lives and bring us closer in our walk with Jesus.

Getting us started

1. Where did your ancestors come from? How did they get to this country?
2. Who is one of the more colorful characters in your family tree?
3. Who, in your family tree, do you look to as a spiritual patriarch or matriarch?

Getting us into Scripture

4. What does Jesus want to emphasize to the people who believed him? What does he mean by *disciples*? *Truth*? *Freedom*?
5. What false assumptions confuse the issue of spiritual freedom for Abraham’s descendants? How does Jesus undermine their base of confidence? What issues does he force them to confront (vv. 34-41)?
6. How does Jesus undermine their claim in verse 41? What does he say is the ultimate test to show who “belongs to God” (vv. 42-47)? How does he account for their misunderstanding of him (vv. 37, 43, 45, 47)?
7. Why does Jesus continue to address his relationship with the Father?
8. What is the critical question raised by his claim in verse 51 (also v. 24)? How is this issue central to the whole argument in 7:4-8:58? How does Jesus use their loyalty to Abraham against them? Why does Jesus’ final claim cause such an outrage (see Exodus 3:14)?

Getting Scripture into us

9. What are you proud of in your religious heritage? In what ways has it been a handicap?
10. What has knowing the truth set you free to do? How can you be sure that there is room in your life for his Word? What needs to be cleaned out so there is room?
11. Of the four claims Jesus makes in this chapter (vv. 12, 32, 51, 58), which means the most to you? Why?
12. What does Jesus’ association between the devil and telling lies mean to you? From this passage, what can you do for someone who is honestly seeking God? What in your spiritual journey might help?