



Week 13 Discussion Questions

Text: John 8:31-59

Icebreaker: One part of Calvary's mission is to "Make Disciples" which means being a follower of Jesus, growing in love for God and love for others. What has discipleship looked like in your own life and journey with Jesus?

1. Read this week's passage. What stands out from the text or sermon?
2. Up until this point in John, people's responses to Jesus has been divided. In this passage, Jesus addresses those who have believed in Him and tells them what it means to be His disciples. Identify up to five things Jesus describes as marks of a disciple in this passage.
 - Abiding in the Word (v. 31)
 - Being freed from slavery to Sin (v. 34-35)
 - Living out faithful obedience (v. 39-40)
 - Loving Jesus (v. 42)
 - Hearing Jesus truth (v. 45-47)
3. Discuss the relation between Jesus being the Word of God (John 1:1) and the Light of the World (John 8:12).

If Jesus IS the Word of God, He is the illuminating Truth that brings light to the darkness. Jesus is God and has revealed all Truth and it is only through Him that we can find our way out of the darkness.
4. What does it mean to *Abide* in Jesus word?

Look at John 15 for a more detailed vision of what Jesus means when He tells us to abide in Him and His Word. Abiding or remaining in Jesus word means to recognize His truth and to live according to His reality and glory and not our own.
5. Jesus using the imagery of "slavery" to describe the impact of Sin in our lives. Discuss why Jesus would use this imagery and how you have experienced this truth in your own life.

Slavery implies a bondage you cannot escape and a price that must be paid. The imagery of slavery implies a master who rules over you and dictates your every act. Slavery implies an oppression.

6. Jesus says that the result of abiding in His word is to know the truth and be set free from slavery to sin. What does Jesus reveal here about our relationship to Sin as Christians?

To be in Christ is to be freed from this oppression, bondage, and mastery of Sin in our lives. As Christians, though we sin, we are no longer Sinners. Our identity is in Christ and our life is marked by the light and truth instead of darkness and lies.

7. What is freedom according to Jesus?

Freedom in Jesus is the restoration to life as it was meant to be lived, in communion with God and one another. Freedom in Jesus is a shedding of the dark shroud of Sin over our purpose and having the witness of Jesus as the True human to draw us into our true selves as we were meant to be from the beginning.

8. The Jews try to claim relation to Abraham by birth, but Jesus suggests being related to Abraham is to do what Abraham did. Read Genesis 16 and discuss Abraham's reception of God's messenger.

Abraham recognizes these messengers, responds in worship and again in faithfulness, trusting the Lord to do something greater than he or Sarah could imagine.

9. What is Abraham's example and what does it mean as believers in Jesus to imitate Him?

Recognizing God's truth as he reveals it and responding in worship and faithfulness.

10. Jesus says that "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here." How does Jesus go on to describe what it means to love Him?

Hearing and believing Jesus as the Truth and responding to what He has said.

11. Sin and darkness lead to death. How have you seen this to be true in the world or your own life lately?

12. Truth and light lead to life. How have you seen this to be true in the world or your own life lately?