

John Chapter 8 Small group questions

Comprehension

1. Why did the scribes and Pharisees bring the woman who had been caught in adultery to Jesus?
2. Were the religious leaders concerned about true righteousness? How do you know?
3. In John 8, Jesus revealed his true identity and the true identity of his challengers. What did Jesus say about who he is? What did he say about the identity of the Jewish authorities?
4. Jesus spoke to the Jews who believed in him in 8:31 and told them, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” How did they respond to him? Did they understand what he was telling them? What kind of freedom was Jesus referring to? Are you a true disciple of Jesus?
5. At the end of Chapter 8 Jesus told the religious authorities, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.” How did they understand that? What was their reaction?

Interpretation

1. Earlier in the Gospel of John, Jesus used bread and water as symbols. In John 8:12, he uses another symbol. What is it? How does it help us to understand who Jesus is?
2. In John 8:28, Jesus tells the religious authorities, “When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he, and that I do nothing on my own authority, but speak just as the Father taught me.” What did he mean when he said “you have lifted up the Son of Man?”

Application

1. Think of someone in the news lately who has been exposed for committing adultery. How did they respond to public exposure of their sin?
2. Have you ever been forgiven by someone (other than Jesus) for something that you know you definitely did/handled wrong? How did that make you feel? How easy is it for you to forgive others who have wronged you or those you love (your children)?
3. Jesus tells the adulterous woman that he does not condemn her. What can we learn from that? Matthew 7:5 tells us, “You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother’s eye.” Why are we sometimes eager to point out the sins of others rather than focus on our own sin?
4. In John 8:29a, Jesus says, “And he who sent me is with me. He has not left me alone...” Jesus had been confronted and challenged over and over again by the religious authorities and he knew what lied ahead for him. Although his time had not yet come, he knew it is coming — and through it all, he remained composed and calm. What can we learn from Jesus that we can apply in our own lives when we face difficult/challenging times?