

# John 8

## ENGAGE FELLOWSHIP

*Listening to and hearing the Words of Jesus. “Then at dawn Jesus appeared in the temple courts again, and soon all the people gathered around to listen to his words, so he sat down and taught them.” (John 8:2)*

## MY JOURNAL

**n John 8:1-11, Jesus demonstrates approachability and others wish to gather around him.** In our churches and fellowship together, let's create safe spaces around us in which people can experience spirit-filled, life-changing fellowship.

A safe place to belong is characterized by...

Listening to and hearing the Words of Jesus. *"Then at dawn Jesus appeared in the temple courts again, and soon all the people gathered around to listen to his words, so he sat down and taught them" (John 8:2).*

Welcoming *all* who join the group. “Then in the middle of his teaching, the religious scholars and the Pharisees broke through the crowd and brought a woman who had been caught in the act of committing adultery and made her stand in the middle of everyone” (John 8:3).

Carefully handling questions that are raised by participants. *“Doesn’t Moses’ Law command us to stone to death a woman like this?” (John 8:5).*

Boldly addressing emotions that are present in the room. *“Angry, they kept insisting that he answer their questions, so Jesus stood up and looked at them and said, ‘Let’s have the man who has never had a sinful desire throw the first stone at her’” (John 8:7).*

Granting forgiveness when appropriate. *"I certainly don't condemn you either"* (John 8:11).

Pause together and celebrate various ways that your fellowship is finding freedom from self-interest to become a safe place in which people can grow and change.

- *One of my favorite Jesus stories that we discussed and experienced recently was...*
- *I enjoy the diversity of our group as I'm a little different in that I...*
- *No question seems to be a "dumb" question here and that makes me feel...*
- *No emotion seems to be "wrong" in this place and I can tend to be...*
- *I have experienced forgiveness and grace through the people in this group by...*

**Pray together**, asking the Holy Spirit to continue to refine you and your community of Jesus followers: *“Dear Holy Spirit, refine our fellowship to be a ‘safe space’ for people to belong, believe and become like Jesus.”*

# ENCOUNTER JESUS

# MY JOURNAL

Pray a **prayer** of gratitude for your identity, uniqueness and purpose, allowing this joy to motivate all that you do and say as His follower: *“Lord, I appreciate how you have designed me and called me to reflect Your love to Your people.”*

# John 8

## EXPERIENCE SCRIPTURE

*“Jesus said to those Jews who believed in him, ‘When you continue to embrace all that I teach, you prove that you are my true followers. For if you embrace the truth, it will release more freedom into your lives’” (John 8:31-32).*

## MY JOURNAL

**I**n John 8:31-59, Jesus offers encounters with his Word as a means to deepened transformation in Christ-likeness. Encountering Jesus in the Word transforms us to his likeness. This work of Christ-likeness through the Word includes the Holy Spirit's work of:

**Self-awareness.** “*Surprised by this, they said, ‘But we’re the descendants of Abraham and we’re already free’*” (John 8:33a). The Jews were unaware of their true spiritual condition. Experiencing the words of Jesus helps us to see ourselves as we are.

**Humility.** “We’ve never been in bondage to anyone. How could you say that we will be released into more freedom?” (John 8:33b). Spiritual pride can hinder growth but yielding to his truth can bring life change.

**Faith.** *“If you really knew God, you would listen, receive and respond with faith to his words” (John 8:47).* Being in relationship with the words of Christ brings about implicit, unwavering trust that they will never fail.

**Gratitude.** *“I have fully embraced him, and I treasure his every word”* (John 8:55). The Jews took their relationship with God for granted. Gratitude will lead us into a deeper love for the one who spoke truth.

**Pause and reflect** on areas of potential growth and change that could lead to spiritual awakening in your life.

- Ask the Lord for increased self-awareness: “Dear Lord, please search me and help me to become aware of the areas that are hindering my spiritual maturity.”
- Ask a trusted friend for feedback: “In our relationship what do you need ‘more of/less of’ from me?”
- Ask a group member for prayer in areas of struggle: “Would you please pray for me regarding...”
- Express thanksgiving to the Lord for a recent celebration: “Lord, I appreciate how you recently...”

Ask the Lord to establish in your life this one powerful daily discipline  
 “embrace the truth, it will release more freedom” (John 8:32):  
*“Dear Lord Jesus, I desire to be teachable. Thank you for allowing me to embrace  
 Your truth and help me to continue in that path.”*

## This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.