

John 8

*“Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind.’ This is the first and most important command... And the second command is like the first: ‘Love your neighbor as you love yourself.’ ... All the law and the writings of the prophets depend on these two commands.” (Matthew 22:37-40)*

SPirit  
EMPOWERED  
Faith

Day 1

**L-3. Experiencing God as He really is through deepened intimacy with Him.**

I. Love the Lord Your God... How might this text lead me to better love God? “We love because He first loved us.” (1 Jn 4:19) We can only love with all our “heart, soul, mind, and strength” the REAL God.

A. As you read and reflect on the chapter, how might you describe the “REAL” God as He is seen as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?

1. In verse \_\_\_\_\_ He is seen as \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. In verse \_\_\_\_\_ He is seen as \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. In verse \_\_\_\_\_ the love of Jesus is seen toward \_\_\_\_\_ as He  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. In verse \_\_\_\_\_ the love of Jesus is seen toward \_\_\_\_\_ as He  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. How might the above insights challenge some of your misconceptions of God? “Sadly, I sometimes mistakenly see God as \_\_\_\_\_.”

SPirit  
EMPOWERED  
Faith

Day 2

**W-1. Frequently being led by the Spirit into deeper love for the One who wrote the Word.**

B. Since God is the same yesterday, today and forever (Hebrews 13:8): The REAL God described above wants to relate to you as you described Him above; pause to let Him love you.

1. Father, as you express yourself to me as the God who \_\_\_\_\_, my heart is moved with \_\_\_\_\_

2. Father, as you express yourself to me as the God who \_\_\_\_\_, my heart is moved with \_\_\_\_\_

C. Jesus is available to love you like we read of His love in this chapter. Pause to express your heart to Him as you see Him in this chapter.

1. Describe how Jesus has loved you in some of the same ways that you read of His love in this chapter: “I have experienced the love of Jesus as He has \_\_\_\_\_

2. Jesus, as you love me like you loved those in this chapter, my heart is touched with \_\_\_\_\_

John 8

*“Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind.’ This is the first and most important command... And the second command is like the first: ‘Love your neighbor as you love yourself.’ ... All the law and the writings of the prophets depend on these two commands.” (Matthew 22:37-40)*

SPIRIT  
EMPOWERED  
Faith

Day 3

**P-5. Ministering His life and love to our nearest ones at home and with family as well as faithful engagement in His Body, the Church.**

II. Love Your Neighbor... How might this text lead me to better love others, both those who follow Jesus and those who don't know Him? "Love one another even as I have loved you." (John 13:34)

Since we have freely recieved of His love, we are to freely give this same love to others; consider again how you see love portrayed in this chapter.

A. Who among your family or friends might you better love?

1. I could better love \_\_\_\_\_ especially by \_\_\_\_\_

B. Notice again how Jesus expressed love by accepting, forgiving or sacrificing? How might Jesus have taken initiative, expressed compassion or offered support? How did Jesus share truth and eternal hope?

1. Who in the traffic patterns of your life might benefit from receiving the blessing of Christ's love through you? (*who*) \_\_\_\_\_ could benefit from my sharing the love of Jesus by \_\_\_\_\_

2. Who in your life could benefit from sharing part of your life story of encountering truth and eternal hope? (*who*) \_\_\_\_\_ could benefit from sharing more about \_\_\_\_\_

3. Pause now to pray from this person and then yourself as upi impart both your life and the gospel.

SPIRIT  
EMPOWERED  
Faith

Day 4

**M-1. Imparting the gospel and one's very life in daily activities and relationships, vocation and community.**

III. "As you love yourself" your significance, value and worth have been established by your creator through the gift of His Son. How might this text affirm your identity as His "beloved"?

**"This is how God showed his love to us: He sent His only Son into the world to give us life through Him." (1 John 4:9)**

Celebrate how you have received His love and grace, His forgiveness and new life, His calling and kingdom purpose.

A. Re-read the text as His truth being shared just for you.

1. I'm grateful that I have experienced the blessing of verse \_\_\_\_\_ as I \_\_\_\_\_

B. Since He is the same yesterday, today, and forever meditate on you being "in" the story of thsi chapter; allow Him to love you as you read of His love in the chapter.

1. My heart is touched with gratitude that Jesus \_\_\_\_\_

SPIRIT  
EMPOWERED  
Faith

Day 5

**L-4. Rejoicing regularly in my identity as "His Beloved."**

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)



*Rejoicing regularly in my identity as “His Beloved.”*

**I**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.”

John 8

## Encounter Jesus

*“For I absolutely know who I am, where I’ve come from, and where I’m going” (John 8:14).*



*Rejoicing regularly in my identity as “His Beloved.”*

In John 8:12-30, Jesus asserts that he is the light of the world and not from this world. In his encounter with religious leaders, he speaks to his identity, background and purpose—and offers hope to those of us who follow him.

“For I absolutely know who I am, where I’ve come from, and where I’m going” (John 8:14).

**We are becoming more and more like him, being jointly formed into his image (Romans 8:29).**

- **Who I am.** “Then Jesus said, ‘I am light to the world and those who embrace me will experience life-giving light, and they will never walk in darkness’” (John 8:12). The religious leaders found their identity in religious performance. This is sometimes described as the religion of “who-do-ism,” which occurs when who I *am* is equated with what I *do*.
- **Where I’ve come from.** “I am from above. I am not from this world...” (John 8:23). Jesus found security in the love of his Father.
- **Where I’m going.** “You will know me as ‘I Am’ after you have lifted me up from the earth as the Son of Man. Then you will realize that I do nothing on my own initiative, but I only speak the truth that the Father has revealed to me. I am his messenger and he is always with me, for I only do that which delights his heart” (John 8:28-29). Jesus defined his purpose in the context of a mutually dependent relationship with his Father—the Father reveals and the Son of Man yields.

---

**Pause and rejoice** in your identity, creation and purpose as a joint-heir of Jesus.

- Rejoicing in your identity as “His Beloved” (Song of Solomon 2:4; Ephesians 1:6).
- Celebrating how God has formed you and set you apart (Psalm 139:13; Jeremiah 1:5).
- Expressing appreciation for your purpose to do that which delights God’s heart (Psalm 37:4).

**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).”*



*Rejoicing regularly in my identity as “His Beloved.”*

In 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.”*

