



John 8:31-38 Small Group Questions

- Someone read John 8:31-38. What ideas or images strike you as important in this passage?
 - This is a shorter passage; how would you summarize the main points that Jesus makes in your own words?
 - Someone remind us where we are in the story: who is Jesus speaking to? At what occasion is He speaking? Why are there so many people crowded around Him?
- Ben spent time going into detail on the idea of “abiding” in Jesus in verse 31. What does the word abide mean? In what contexts might you use that word today?
 - What does it look like to abide in Jesus? How is this different from simply believing in Jesus?
 - Ben contrasted abiding in Jesus with “easy believe-ism”. What is “easy believe-ism”? In other words, what does it look like to attempt to follow Jesus without abiding in Jesus?
 - How does abiding in Jesus challenge our culture’s desire for instant results and instant gratification?
 - How does our short attention spans and desire for instant gratification keep us from truly abiding in Jesus?
 - How do we maintain a long-term view of our relationship with Jesus? How do we continue to faithfully follow Him in

the long-term even when we're disappointed in the short-term "results" of our discipleship?

- What is the practical benefit of abiding in Jesus in verse 32?
 - Ben asked the question: what is real freedom? How would you define freedom?
 - What does it feel like to be free?
 - Ben juxtaposed Christianity's understanding of freedom with that of the culture: what does Christianity say that we're freed from? What does American culture want freedom from?
 - How do these different understandings of freedom shape the way that people live?
 - Ben said that true freedom includes constraints: how is this possible? How can we be totally free by following rules given to us by God?
- How do the Pharisees respond to Jesus' declaration of freedom in verse 33?
 - Ben said that their response is characteristic of the religious heart. What does it mean to have a religious heart?
 - How is the religious heart in rebellion to God? What makes it blind to the need for God?
 - How do we kill the religious heart inside of us? How do we die to our own morality and live in desperate need for God?
- What is the image that Jesus uses to describe freedom in verses 35-36? How does this metaphor help us understand how Jesus (the Son) brings us true freedom?
- What does it mean to be freed from the power of sin? If we still struggle with sin, what does it mean that Jesus has set us free from sin?