

Simple Math

Pastor Jeff Thompson | John 8:21-30

NOTE: As a guide, use these questions to help with group and family discussion or for personal reflection. Not all questions are needed. Select the ones that will best serve your group as you grow in Christ together through His Word. *Soli Deo Gloria*.

Ice Breaker

How has the study of the book of John challenged or encouraged you lately?

Understanding the Text in Context

Re-read John 8:21-30. Based on this passage, what do we learn about Jesus' relationship with the Father? How can what Jesus says here give us a greater view of the Trinity?

Why do the Jewish questioners ask if Jesus will commit suicide? What does this question reveal about their heart posture towards Jesus?

Connecting to Jesus and His Gospel

In John 8:24, Jesus says, "I told you that you would die in your sins, for unless you believe that I am he you will die in your sins." Who does Jesus claim to be in this part of the passage? And why does this claim matter for our understanding of the gospel and Jesus being "lifted up" (v. 28)?

Living Out the Truth

There is a weightiness in Jesus' words about dying "in your sins." How does Jesus' view of sin compare to yours, both in what you believe and in how your belief translates to your behavior?

Is there anything the Bible teaches which you have been stubbornly resistant to believe? Ask someone who knows you very well to see if there are any “blind spots” about God’s truth that you have closed yourself off to and listen. What would it look like to humbly surrender that intentional “blind spot” to Christ in obedience?

There is urgency in Jesus’ words. How can that encourage your prayers for people you know who do not know Jesus? Together with your group, pray that the Lord would open doors (Colossians 4:2-4), and that we will speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15).

Parenting Moment and Family Focus

With your kids, read 1 John 4:10. Talk with them about why the cross shows that Jesus loves them.

With your spouse, share together the stories of how you came to know the Lord and when you made the choice to follow Christ. Whether or not your spouse follows Christ, you can still share your story and testify how the Lord saved you.

Further Study

In our text this week, Jesus makes a fascinating statement about His relationship to God the Father: “... I always do the things that are pleasing to him” (John 8:29). What pleases God? Three resources to delve into that question:

- An article: “[What Makes God Happiest? Enjoying His Signature Joy.](#)”
- A seminar: “[The Pleasures of God – Session 1: God's Delight in Being God](#)”
- A book (free digital version): “[The Pleasures of God: Meditations on God’s Delight in Being God](#)”

A question answered in the “Ask Pastor John” [John Piper] podcast about the cross and the weightiness of sin: “[If Sin’s Penalty Is Eternal, Why Isn’t Jesus Still Suffering?](#)”

For more on the Trinity, Tim Challies created a [very helpful infographic](#). Also, [Crossway has a collection of articles](#) that will clarify some questions and will lift your eyes to the grandeur of our One, True, and Living God!

Read your John Study Journals, looking ahead to next week’s sermon and text for John 8:31-59: “Jesus Sets Us Free,” “Hearing the Word of God,” and “Living On Mission.”