

the gospel of

JOHN

he is the one

This Winter, our hope is to see Jesus in chapters 5-10 of John's Gospel. John shows us that He is the One. As God, He is the One with the right to judge, the power to provide soul food, who gives eternal life, and who can save and keep until the end. He is the One with real authority, who can give the Spirit and grant mercy. He is the One with the truth, sent from the Father who can truly see and grant sight. And He is the One who is the good shepherd who lays down his life for his sheep. For everything we need, He is the One. For everything we want, He is the One. Jesus is the One sent from the Father to be for us all that we have ever hoped and longed for.

PART 9: THE ONE FROM THE FATHER

Read the text: John 8:36-59 (vs. 36-47 included below)

So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. I know that you are offspring of Abraham; yet you seek to kill me because my word finds no place in you. I speak of what I have seen with my Father, and you do what you have heard from your father."

They answered him, "Abraham is our father." Jesus said to them, "If you were Abraham's children, you would be doing the works Abraham did, but now you seek to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. This is not what Abraham did. You are doing the works your father did." They said to him, "We were not born of sexual immorality. We have one Father —even God." Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me. Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear my word. You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's

desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me. Which one of you convicts me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me? Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God.”

If you boil down this whole heated exchange between Jesus and the Jews, you get a picture of two kingdoms, two systems, two ways of thinking. The headline for this whole passage is: you think you are sons, but you are slaves. And Jesus makes it obvious that the Jewish leaders are on the wrong side of the ledger. They thought they knew how to get to heaven. They assumed that their bloodlines and connection to Abraham made them sons, and Jesus told them instead that they were still slaves to their sin. To be a true son is to receive the Word of God and keep it.

Discussion Questions:

These questions are written for DNA groups, but you can use them in any setting, including missional communities. Because they were written for the intimacy of DNA friendships, you may need to adjust for larger groups.

1. Pastor Donald mentioned three ways we tend to respond to God’s truth: receiving the truth, wrestling with the truth, and rejecting the truth. What truths about Jesus do you wrestle with the most? That He loves you? That He is in control? That He can satisfy you? That He forgives you? Something else? If you’re honest, are there truths you have rejected (maybe you’ve never said it, but you’ve functionally rejected them)?
2. There were many “fans” of Jesus who walked away when He called them to follow Him as disciples. “Fans” focus on the gifts, not the Giver; focus on giving up as little as possible

instead of getting as much of Christ as possible; and focus on what the Kingdom can do for them instead of how they might be used in the Kingdom. Are there areas of your life where you function more like a “fan” and less like a “disciple”?

3. The Father doesn't have employees, only sons. What are some differences between the mindset of an employee in God's company vs. a child in God's house? How does God view each of these?
4. Do you see yourself more as a child in God's house or an employee in His company? Don't answer with what you know to be true, but with how you most often think about yourself. Why do you think that is?