

# ENCOUNTERS

DISCUSSION GUIDE

# WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Welcome to community group! We believe that people come to faith and grow in their faith when they get to spend time reflecting on God's Word, and also spending time with other Christians. That's what we're hoping for tonight. As we get started, here are a lot of things happening in the broader life of the church starting in the new year:*

## • Download & Update

Alright...if you have a smartphone, take it out....Seriously...Now go to the App Store and get the Church Center App. We'll wait. ... Search for "New City Cincinnati" and pick it. Login with your Planning Center login / follow the instructions. This app is probably the best way to stay up to date on upcoming events, Community Group meeting dates and times, find groups, etc. AND you can even manage your giving on there. Soon they're supposed to release some communication tools as well. Now...once you have the app, tap on the icon on the top right (if you don't have a profile picture yet it'll be a gray person icon). Upload a picture, check your information, etc. And there you have it!

## • New City Guys' Game Night: Friday, February 21st

Gentlemen...come on out to the church building for games. If you've got a favorite game feel free to bring it though some of our resident game masters will bring several favorites. Also **bring something to drink (soda, beer, etc.) and a snack to share**. Invite friends! P.S. Whether you're a pro board gamer or don't dig the idea of games, *come join us*. There'll be food and drink (and other fellas who probably don't love games either. Just come and join Pastor Josh walking around and chatting).

## • Ash Wednesday: February 26th

We're going to gather for worship at 7p on Wednesday, February 26 @ the church building to mark the beginning of Lent and our journey toward Holy Week & Easter. Children are more than welcome to participate in worship but there will only be childcare for children ages 4 and under. RSVP for childcare on Church Center.

# Jesus & the Sinful

(John 8.31-59)

*Open up with a prayer for your time together: giving thanks for the community God has given us, asking for encouragement amongst one another, and for God to be honored, etc.*

**OPENER:** What winter sound or smell triggers a powerful memory for you?

## STUDY/DISCUSSION

*So far in 2020 we've been exploring "Encounters" Jesus has with folks in the gospel of John. Tonight we're taking a look at John chapter 8.*

**>> READ >> John 8.31-59**

1. What does the word "abide" conjure up for you? What comes to mind? Could you define it in your own words?
2. Jesus says in verse 32, "the truth will set you free." This phrase has been co-opted by our culture in many ways; how have you heard this phrase being used before?
3. What does "freedom" mean to you? Read verses 34-36, how does Jesus define freedom?
4. Jesus says "Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day." Read Romans 4:13-25, how does God's promise to Abraham point people toward Jesus? Why is being biological descendants of Abraham not enough to make one righteous?
5. Is it possible to believe in Jesus' words, and yet reject Jesus' claim about who he is? Why or why not?
6. Jesus accuses the people of being children of the devil because they cannot bear to hear his word (v. 43). What does it look like to actually hear Jesus' words?
7. What are some of the promises that Jesus listed in this passage for those who abide/listen/keep his words? How do these promises set you free?

## PRAY

Take some time and pray together. Focus on Jesus as merciful and a welcomer of the guilty, giving thanks that he welcomes even us.