

THE GOSPEL OF

JOHN

STUDENT LESSON

**SEEKING
TRUTH**

Open it

1. Share two truths and a lie about yourself. (Have your small group guess which are the truths and which one is the lie.)

Daily Devotions

Day 1 — Today's Theme: Explore It

Read John 8:31–59.

2. What makes someone a disciple of Jesus?
3. What sets us free?
4. Who does Jesus say is a slave to sin?
5. Why are they looking for a way to kill Jesus?
6. What is the devil's native language?

7. How does someone know that he belongs to God?

8. What is the Jews' wrong assessment of Jesus?

9. What statement did Jesus make that caused the Jews to want to stone Him?

Day 2 — Today's Theme: The Importance of the Truth

Read John 8:31–36.

I hear and see over and over again that students today are experiencing anxiety like never before. I recently heard on a podcast that one of the main causes of anxiety is social media, as students compare themselves to others. Basically, students are seeing the “highlight reels” of other teens' lives in looks and accomplishments, and they feel like they don't measure up. But what they don't understand is that they are believing the lie that everyone they see on social media has their lives all together. The truth is that we are each fearfully and wonderfully made in the image of God.¹ None of us is perfect, we are all broken,² and we all need someone to help us and save us!

In our passage today, the Jews who “believed in Jesus” didn't realize that they were slaves. What does Jesus say they were slaves to? Sin! Jesus gives the key to being set free when He says, “*Then you will know the truth and the truth will set you free.*” And “*If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.*” What does Jesus mean? He means that knowing the truth about every situation in our lives and believing the truth sets us free! And truth really comes from Jesus. It all starts with Jesus, by believing that we are utterly helpless and hopeless and broken sinful human beings, but that Jesus came to rescue us through His sacrifice on the cross for our sins and resurrection from the dead. Then when we start walking in a relationship with Jesus, we will experience true freedom. We will be free from believing all of the lies that Satan and the world throw at us and believe that we are forgiven, chosen, and valued by Jesus, the Son!

¹ Genesis 1:26

² Romans 3:23

10. What are some of the lies students hear every day?

11. What are some lies you have believed?

12. How does sinning make you a slave to sin? What is one sin that has enslaved you?

13. How can you be set free from the bondage of sin?

Day 3 — Today's Theme: Who's Your Daddy?

Read John 8:37–47.

Most of us know who our biological father is. Some of you are reading this and you may not know your biological father because you were adopted, or maybe your dad died when you were young, or he abandoned you and your family at some point in your life. Whether you know your biological dad or not, and whether you have a good relationship with him or not, if you have trusted in Jesus as your Savior and Lord, you need to know that you have a perfect Heavenly Father who is crazy about you and unconditionally loves you more than you will ever know!

The Jews were trying to convince Jesus that Abraham was their father. The culture of Jesus' day was patriarchal, meaning that great emphasis was placed on who your father was. Yes, Jesus acknowledged that they were descendants of Abraham biologically, but He said that Abraham was not their father spiritually. If Abraham were truly their father, they wouldn't want to kill Jesus and they would do the things Abraham did, which is listen to what God says and live by faith alone in God alone. Jesus calls out the Jews and tells them who their true father is—the devil! They don't hold to the truth, but they believe the lies of the devil and want to carry out his desires.

14. What traits do you admire about your dad?

15. Why is God the perfect Father?

16. How does knowing and believing that God is your perfect Father who loves you unconditionally help you live confidently in a world where so many people are insecure about their identity?

Day 4 — Today's Theme: Did Jesus Ever Claim to be God?

Read John 8:48–59.

Some people say that Jesus was a good moral teacher or just a prophet, and that He never really claimed to be God. The Jews in this passage say that Jesus was a Samaritan, a person who was half Jewish and half Gentile and racially hated by those who had a pure Jewish lineage, and even worse, they said that Jesus was demon-possessed. An interesting observation to this passage is that even though Jesus is 100% Jewish, He doesn't comment on the Samaritan racial discrimination, because I believe that He is not looking at Samaritans as lesser individuals like the Jews did. Jesus did deny the claim that He was demon-possessed. He even went further to make the proclamation that He is God when He said, "*Before Abraham was born, I am!*" When God speaks to Moses at the burning bush in Exodus 3, Moses asks God what he should tell the Israelites who sent him to deliver them from Pharaoh, and we see that "God said to Moses, 'I am who I am. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: "I am has sent me to you."'"³ The Jews picked up stones to stone Jesus because they considered it blasphemous that Jesus is claiming to be God, but the truth is that Jesus is God, so He has the right to say "Before Abraham was born, I am!"

17. What have you heard from unbelievers at school, work, or your neighborhood about who they believe Jesus is?

18. If a friend at school asks you to prove that Jesus both claimed to be God in His words and showed that He is God through his actions, what would you say?

³ Exodus 3:14