



One Hope Community Church

Book of John Small Group Study: Chapter 8

How to effectively use this guide:

Always begin in prayer. Before opening your Bible, ask God to send His Holy Spirit to you and ask Him to reveal whatever wisdom and insights He wants you to learn.

Reflect on what you have read and take notes. The questions below are designed to help you examine the scriptures and provide discussion points for your meeting.

Each week, we suggest you hand out the next week's reading plan and questions (or show them where to find it online). This will help people be prepared to discuss the week's reading as a group.

Please remember to go over the agreement below as a small group each time a new person joins your group:

- We gather to grow in relationship with each other and God.
- We trust the Holy Spirit is our guide and the one who transforms our hearts.
- Our small group is an inviting place to discuss the Bible, share life, ask questions, and seek truth while we challenge and learn from each other.
- We commit to keep confidential all personal information shared during discussion and prayer time.
- We respect each other's backgrounds, and avoid negative discussions about politics and denomination differences. We will choose love over judgment.
- We commit to completing the personal study to the best of our ability as preparation, questions, and insights are a gift to the group.
- We listen, not fix. Fixing is God's job. We own our stories. It is okay to ask for help, but if not asked for, our job is to listen, support and pray.
- We will be brief with our answers so that all members have time to share.

Your group won't get through all these questions. Select which ones you find to be the most thought provoking. Or invite your small group to note which questions they would like to discuss.

Meeting Agenda

Gather / Socialize / Catch Up

Worship: New Today Micah Tyler: <https://youtu.be/7yZf1nd1d50?si=7XfZKMllcBveWoZK>

Read Scripture / Answer Questions

Closing prayer

Week #8 Reading Plan (November 5- 11)

Day 1: John 8: 1-11

Day 2: John 8:12-20

Day 3: John 8:21-30

Day 4: John 8:31-47

Day 5: John 8:48-59

Day 1: John 8:1-11

John 8 begins with “but Jesus went to the Mount of Olives.”

The Mount of Olives plays an important role in the Bible.

David wept there as he ran for safety (2 Samuel 15:30).

In 1 Kings 11:7 it says King Solomon used the Mount for worshipping Moloch and Chemosh. People sacrificed their firstborns to Molech and to Chemosh (2 Kings 3:27).

When Jesus was in the area of Jerusalem, He often went to the Mount of Olives (Luke 21:37, Luke 22:39). Lazarus and his sisters lived in the village of Bethany, on the Mount (John 12:1).

The last week of Jesus’s life three events happened here. He rode into Jerusalem on a donkey found in Bethany (Luke 19:29). Here He gave the Olivet Discourse teaching about end times for Israel (Matthew 24-25, Mark 13, Luke 21). The Last Supper ended in the Garden of Gethsemane, located at the foot of the Mount of Olives, where Jesus wept blood while He prayed, where He was betrayed by Judas and taken by the soldiers.

At the Mount of Olives Jesus blessed His disciples and went back to heaven (Luke 24:50-52). Jesus will come back again in the same way, in the same place (Acts 1:11, Zechariah 14:4).

Where David wept, Jesus wept. Where firstborns were sacrificed to gods, Jesus was and is the true God and ultimate sacrifice. Where there was death, Jesus gave life as He raised Lazarus from the dead. Where Jesus was betrayed and rejected, He will return in triumph.

As you learn about places mentioned in the Bible, how is your faith strengthened?

In verse 6 it says that the teachers of the law and the Pharisees were trying to trap Jesus when they brought the woman caught in adultery to Him. Knowing the Law, they may be considering Leviticus 20 and Deuteronomy 22. (Though in the Law, the man was also held accountable.) If Jesus sided with Moses (the Law) for the stoning, He could be brought to the Roman authorities since in their law, adultery was not punishable by death. But if Jesus decided against Moses and the stoning, He would then be prosecuted before the Sanhedrim for disagreeing with the Law.

Jesus is not trapped and the woman is set free of condemnation.

Was it right for the leaders to accuse only the woman caught in adultery? How might her partner have felt if he was watching this take place? How might the woman have felt having been caught and on the verge of being stoned for her sin?

Do you ever feel trapped by the shame of your sin? Noticing how Jesus spoke with this woman, can you imagine how He would speak to you?

Romans 3:23 says that "all have sinned" (Romans 3:23) and "there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." (Romans 8:1).

How do you think the woman felt when she was set free? Jesus does not condemn you if you believe in Him and His sacrifice for your sins. How does this make you feel?

Day 2: John 8:12-20

At night during the Festival of Tabernacles Jerusalem was more prominently lit up. Jewish teachers often used the metaphor of light with positive people and things. When Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness...." people listening may have thought of these two things or of Psalm 18:28, "For it is you who light my lamp; the Lord my God lightens my darkness."

What might walking in darkness look like today? How does God provide light for you?

Jesus was teaching in the "temple courts near the place where the offerings were put." This area was near "the court of the women" and was a very public place. It would make sense that this would have been where the woman caught in adultery was brought.

Why do you think Jesus chose this spot to be teaching?

Day 3: John 8:21-30

Jesus said in verse 21 that He is going away and they could not go where He is going. He uses the verb *hupagó* which is a voluntary departure. As one cannot know their time of death unless they take their own life, they wonder if He is going to kill Himself. The question may have been made in ignorance or in malice and mockery. As people were trying to seize Him, the later makes sense.

Concentrating on the word "voluntary" consider what Jesus chose for salvation to be possible. How does your spirit respond to this?

Jesus answers with "When you have lifted up the Son of Man..." pointing to His crucifixion, just as He did in John 3:14.

Day 4: John 8:31–47

The people Jesus was talking to appear to be new believers. He cautioned those whose faith had not yet been tested.

Consider new believers and how excited they are and yet how many questions they have. What can we learn from them? What can they learn from those whose faith has been tested?

The people said they were never in bondage, forgetting Egypt, Babalon, Persia, Syria and Rome. They knew their privileges as children of Abraham. They viewed the devil as the first murderer since he had lied and deceived Eve, which brought on death for people. What they missed was that as sinners and as they plotted to kill Jesus, their thoughts and actions did not reflect God nor Abraham but the devil.

The devil is the father of lies while Jesus is telling them the truth. Where in your life do you find it easier to believe the lies than to believe what God says?

Day 5: John 8:48-59

The Jews knew Jesus was not a Samaritan. This was an insult of contempt as they did not consider the Samaritans descendants of Abraham nor keepers of the Law. They may be remembering that Jesus was in Samaria (John 4). Jesus did not reply to this but did to the accusation of being demon possessed.

Why do you think Jesus only addressed the latter?

In Exodus 3:14, God tells Abraham His name is "I Am." When Jesus says He is "I am," the people recognize His claim to being God. This would be blasphemy if not true and punishable by stoning (Leviticus 24:16). Again, Jesus leaves unharmed.

If asked, who do you say Jesus is?