SMITH FOR CHRIST

TEACHING THE WORD · WATCHING THE TIMES

REFLECTION JOURNAL · FIVE DAYS

John

Chapter 8

Before Abraham Was Born, I Am

MEMORY VERSE · JOHN 8:31–32

"So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.""

THIS JOURNAL BELONGS TO _____

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

This week in John 8

John 8 begins with a woman who expected a stone and received mercy, and ends with Jesus saying, “before Abraham was born, I am.” This week, let Him tell you the truth about who He is and who you are — and let the Son make you free indeed.

How to use this journal

1. Each day, read the passage slowly — out loud if you can.
2. Answer the **Observe** question from the text before you write what it means.
3. Write honestly on the **Reflect** questions. No one grades this.
4. Do the **Respond** step today, not someday. Say the memory verse.
5. Bring this journal to the group. The last page is for the table.

The full Deep Dive, the O·I·A study and the slides for this chapter are on the John study page.

WHERE I AM AS I START THIS CHAPTER

What is going on in my life right now that I want to bring to God this week?

DAY 1 OF 5

Go. From Now On Sin No More

READ · JOHN 8:1–11

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Your Bible prints these verses in brackets because the earliest copies of John do not have them; read them carefully anyway. Who brought the woman, and why (vv. 3–6)? What did Jesus say to the accusers (v. 7) and to the woman (vv. 10–11)?

REFLECT

Jesus said, "He who is without sin among you, let him be the first to throw a stone at her" (v. 7), and they left "one by one, beginning with the older ones" (v. 9). Who are you tempted to throw a stone at, and what sin of your own does that verse bring to mind?

REFLECT

Jesus said, "I do not condemn you, either. Go. From now on sin no more" (v. 11). Why do you think He spoke the mercy first and the command second? Which of the two do you find harder to receive?

RESPOND — TODAY

Put down one stone today: let go of one judgment you are holding against someone. Then name one sin to "sin no more" about, and tell a brother.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (JOHN 8:31–32)

DAY 2 OF 5

The Light of the World

READ · JOHN 8:12–20

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What does Jesus claim in verse 12, and what two things does He promise the one who follows Him? Who are the two witnesses Jesus names in verses 17–18?

REFLECT

"He who follows Me will not walk in the darkness" (v. 12). What part of your life — a habit, a secret, a resentment — are you still keeping in the dark?

REFLECT

Following is a daily walk, not one decision. What does following Jesus look like for you tomorrow morning, specifically?

RESPOND — TODAY

Bring one hidden thing into the light today — confess it to God, and if it is wise, to a trusted brother. Ask Jesus to light the next step.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (JOHN 8:31–32)

DAY 3 OF 5

Unless You Believe That I Am He

READ · JOHN 8:21–30

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What does Jesus warn will happen in verses 21 and 24? What does He say people will know "When you lift up the Son of Man" (v. 28)? How did many respond (v. 30)?

REFLECT

Jesus said, "unless you believe that I am He, you will die in your sins" (v. 24). What does it mean to you that Jesus claimed God's own name — and what difference does it make whether He is who He says He is?

REFLECT

Jesus said, "I always do the things that are pleasing to Him" (v. 29). Where is one place this week you want to please the Father instead of yourself?

RESPOND — TODAY

Thank Jesus for being lifted up on the cross for you (v. 28). Then do one thing today just because it pleases the Father.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (JOHN 8:31–32)

DAY 4 OF 5

The Son Makes You Free

READ · JOHN 8:31–36

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

To whom was Jesus speaking in verse 31? What is the mark of a true disciple (v. 31), and what does the truth do (v. 32)? What does Jesus say about everyone who commits sin (v. 34)?

REFLECT

"If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine" (v. 31). Are you continuing in His word right now, or did you start strong and drift? What does staying put look like for you?

REFLECT

"Everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin" (v. 34), but "if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed" (v. 36). What chain still holds you, and where have you been trying to break it with willpower instead of asking the Son?

RESPOND — TODAY

Read verse 36 out loud and put the name of your chain in it. Then set a time each day this week to stay in His word, even when it feels dull.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (JOHN 8:31–32)

DAY 5 OF 5

Before Abraham Was Born, I Am

READ · JOHN 8:37–59

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What did Jesus say a true child of Abraham or of God would do (vv. 39, 42, 47)? How does He describe the devil (v. 44)? What did Jesus say in verse 58, and how did the crowd respond (v. 59)?

REFLECT

Jesus judged every claim to a father by the son's deeds (vv. 39–44). If someone looked only at what you did this week, whose child would they say you are?

REFLECT

"If anyone keeps My word he will never see death" (v. 51), and "before Abraham was born, I am" (v. 58). How does knowing Jesus is the eternal I AM change the way you face death, fear or the future?

RESPOND — TODAY

Write down one way you want to look more like your Father this week. Then worship Jesus as the I AM — tell Him in your own words who He is to you.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (JOHN 8:31–32)

WHEN THE GROUP MEETS

Questions for the table

FOR THE GROUP · 1

Our Bibles bracket the story of the woman caught in adultery because the earliest copies of John don't have it. How does it help your faith to know the Bible is honest about its own history?

FOR THE GROUP · 2

The men who "had believed Him" in verse 31 were picking up stones in verse 59. What keeps a man's faith from fading after the first excitement wears off?

FOR THE GROUP · 3

Jesus said, "the truth will make you free" (v. 32). Share one truth from God's Word that has set you free from a lie you used to believe.

MY PRAYER

Lord Jesus, You are the Light of the world and the great I AM, and You did not condemn me, so today I ask You to make me free indeed from…

CUT OUT · CARRY IT · JOHN 8:31–32

"So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.""