

John 8:31–59 Sermon-Based Discussion Guide

Purpose of Discussion: To help us learn to discern when Satan is lying to us and how to believe the truth of Jesus in response.

Sermon Refresher: Jesus came to destroy the devil's work of destruction in this world and your life. We see from this passage that

- Jesus says the devil is very real and that he is a destroyer.
- The main way that he tries to destroy us is by distorting our view of reality, talking to us like it's our own voice, to believe lies.
- But Jesus is the only I AM in the universe and the truth to counter the lies.

Discussion:

1. Why do we find it so hard to believe in the devil and demons, that there are supernatural, personal, evil spiritual beings? *Possible answers include*
2. Jesus says that Satan is a liar and the father of lies (John 8:44). Dave looked back at Genesis 3 to see how Satan has lied from the beginning. This is important for us to grasp if we're really going to understand how Satan and sin want to work in our lives. Read Genesis 3:1–7. What do you see in these verses about the dynamics of sin, how evil wants to work in our lives?

The best thing for us to do as a group is to talk about how we can see through the distortion and trust Christ. So we're going to spend the rest of our time trying to apply John 8:32, knowing the truth so that it will set us free. We'll look at some common lie that Satan tells us and see how we can trust Jesus as the I AM.

3. God isn't really good.
 - a. How do you find yourself tempted to believe this? Think about when things go wrong in life, or something doesn't go like you hoped.

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b. What is the truth that we need to believe to counter this lie?

- Psalm 34:8
- Psalm 100
- Ephesians 1:3–14
- Isaiah 46:8–10
- Romans 8:28–39

4. God should fix my problems.

a. How do you find yourself tempted to believe this? In what ways is it a lie?

b. What is the truth that we need to believe to counter this lie?

- Romans 8:21–22
- James 1:2–4; Romans 5:3–4
- 2 Corinthians 12:7–10

5. I can't help the way I am.

a. How do you find yourself tempted to believe this? In what ways is it a lie?

b. What is the truth that we need to believe to counter this lie?

- Romans 8:1–2
- Philippians 2:12–13
- Hebrews 13:5–6
- Philippians 4:11–12

6. I'm not worth anything.

a. How do you find yourself tempted to believe this? In what ways is it a lie?

b. What is the truth that we need to believe to counter this lie?

- 1 Corinthians 6:19–20
- Acts 20:28
- 1 Peter 2:4–5

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- 1 Peter 2:9

7. I don't have time to do everything I'm supposed to do.

a. How do you find yourself tempted to believe this? In what ways is it a lie?

b. What is the truth that we need to believe to counter this lie?

- Psalm 127:1–2
- Luke 10:38–42
- Galatians 5:22–23

Digging Deeper:

8. Dave drew a contrast between guilt, which comes from Satan, and conviction, which comes from the Holy Spirit. Here are some differences between them:

Guilt	Conviction
Condemns us with shame: : "Since I've done this, I'm worthless, so I can/should engage in destructive behavior."	Gives us hope: ""Since I've done this, I'm unworthy, so I'm humbled and grateful for God's grace to me in Jesus!"
Concerned about loss of self-esteem: "What will others think of me if they find out?"	Concerned about our moment by moment fellowship with God: "This sin is destructive to me and interferes with my walk with Jesus."
Fear of punishment: "Now I'm going to get it."	Concerned for believing the gospel: "This behavior is destroying what God wants for me and is robbing me of his good will for my life."
Leads to turning away from Jesus and usually repeating the sin: "I'm a failure as a Christian."	Leads to repentance: "Jesus, have mercy on me. I turn to you to change my desires."

a. Do you typically respond to your sin with guilt or conviction?

b. What could help you cultivate more conviction in your life?