

*Daily Devotional Guide to
the Book of John*

John Chapter 8

Days 83 - 98

Gaile Thulson

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A Daily Devotional Study Of The Gospel Of John

You will need a Bible of your own to do this devotional study. Reading the Bible with an open heart and mind brings us into God's presence, and getting to know God is accomplished by spending time with him on a daily basis. This study is designed to develop or maintain the habit of meeting daily with God, sometimes referred to as a devotional time with God. It doesn't have to take a large chunk of time, but it needs to be focused on the Scriptures (the Bible). It doesn't have to cover a lot of material or content every day, it just needs to be understood and applied to our lives.

The study days are numbered so that you can do them any day of the week, preferably one each day. However, if you miss a day, it won't matter because the days are not assigned a date or day of the week.

My approach to the study is a verse by verse exploration and application of God's Word to our lives. This is an *inductive* study, which means that we derive meaning from the Biblical text itself rather than from outside sources. The passages for each day are short, to enable you to focus more in depth on a few verses at a time. I frequently bring additional Scripture into the discussion in an effort to ensure accurate interpretation of the day's topics.

How This Devotional Study Works

1. In your Bible, look up and read the verses for the day.
2. Write the first verse for the day in the top left space under *What it Says* (Row 1, Column 1).
3. Working left to right, read the comments in the *Meanings/Principles* space (Row 1, Column 2).
4. Then, write your answers to the questions to clarify *What it Means to Me* (Row 1, Column 3).
5. Continue by writing the next verse in Row 2, Column 1, reading Row 2 Column 2, and writing answers to questions in Row 2, Column 3.
6. Continue working left to right as you go down the page.

To summarize, first read through the verses in John for the day. Then write exactly what the first verse says in the first column. (*Write each verse word for word, exactly as it appears in the Bible in column one.*) After you write out each verse, read the second column that clarifies the important information given in that verse and then answer the questions in column three related to the verse. (*Work left to right. It is important to answer each question based on the verse and its meaning in column two.*)

You may choose to either 1) print pages and write in the spaces provided or 2) enter your responses on your computer. If you use your computer you can save your work, then come back and print at any time. If your response exceeds the space allowed you can scroll the text area to see the complete text; but if you print, some of the text may be hidden.

Day 83

Read John 7:53-8:6

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 7:53-8:1</p>	<p>The oldest manuscripts do not contain John 7:53-8:11, so it may have been added later. It is true that Jesus sometimes stayed with friends and disciples, or in a garden, on the hill east of Jerusalem. He spent a great deal of time in prayer to the Father there, knowing that the time to give his life was approaching.</p>	<p>How do I spend my private time?</p>
<p>John 8:2</p>	<p>Jesus was concerned for the people and their spiritual needs.</p>	<p>What most concerns me?</p>
<p>John 8:3</p>	<p>The Pharisees were willing to use people for their own purposes.</p>	<p>Have I ever used someone for my own purposes?</p> <p>Has anyone ever used me for their purposes? How did it feel?</p>
<p>John 8:4</p>	<p>They made sure her guilt could not be questioned.</p>	<p>What is mercy? (Find a dictionary definition if that helps.)</p>

Day 83

Read John 7:53-8:6

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 8:5</p> <div data-bbox="100 281 428 596" style="border: 1px solid black; height: 150px;"></div>	<p>Everyone knew that the Law condemned and gave the sentence of death for this sin. If Jesus said to let her go, they would be able to accuse him of not honoring God's laws.</p>	<p>Do I know the seriousness of sin? Do I know that the penalty required by God for sin is death? (Romans 6:23)</p> <div data-bbox="789 310 1524 596" style="border: 1px solid black; height: 136px;"></div>
<p>John 8:6</p> <div data-bbox="100 648 428 1068" style="border: 1px solid black; height: 200px;"></div>	<p>Jesus knew that we all have the potential to sin in our hearts. We all have the potential to break any of God's commandments. We all deserve God's judgment and sentence of death, but that is not God's desire for us. God's desire is for us to seek forgiveness, cleansing, and repentance, and to stop such sinning. (Matthew 5:27-39)</p>	<p>From what sin in my life does God want to deliver me? Does it seem of small consequence to me?</p> <div data-bbox="789 680 1524 856" style="border: 1px solid black; height: 84px;"></div> <p>Is there someone I can extend mercy to today?</p> <div data-bbox="789 894 1524 1068" style="border: 1px solid black; height: 83px;"></div>

What do I want to say to God?

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 8:7</p>	<p>If we demand judgment for someone else, God judges us by the same standard. It is not our place to tattle on others and demand God's punishment when we are all in the same position before God. God is the only one in a position to judge us.</p>	<p>Whom have I demanded God to punish? What happened when I made that demand?</p> <p>How can I adjust my thinking away from personal judgment of others?</p>
<p>John 8:8</p>	<p>Jesus knew that every one of them had done something wrong before God. Perhaps he merely waited for the truth to be made manifest.</p>	<p>Of what does my own conscience accuse me when I want God to judge someone else?</p>
<p>John 8:9</p>	<p>Eventually, through the years, we all are faced with our own fallacies, our own sin, and our own shortcomings. We can only cast ourselves on God's mercy and ask him to change us.</p>	<p>What does God need to change in me?</p>
<p>John 8:10</p>	<p>Jesus cares about the person caught in sin.</p>	<p>Do I care about those who are spiritually needy and trapped in sin?</p>

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 8:11</p>	<p>God would rather each person repented and sought forgiveness rather than to continue in sin that leads to judgment. God's desire is not to condemn but to forgive, accept, and change people. But she must turn from her sin and leave it in repentance. She must allow God to change her heart so that her actions will change.</p>	<p>Have I experienced God's mercy?</p> <p>Have my desires and actions changed as a result?</p> <p>How can I help someone else to know God's mercy? Does it mean we should just ignore sin?</p>

What would I like to say to Jesus?

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 8:12</p>	<p>Jesus is light. He gives illumination and understanding. He gives clarity and purpose. He gives knowledge and wisdom. He lights the way and the right course of action.</p>	<p>Am I walking in Jesus' light?</p> <p>Am I allowing my time with Jesus to give me understanding, wisdom, and purpose for my life?</p> <p>How can I have peace about the events of each day, about the events facing me today? How about tomorrow? (Matthew 6:33-34, 7:7-8; John 14:26-27)</p>

What do I need to say to Jesus?

Day 86

Read John 8:13-18

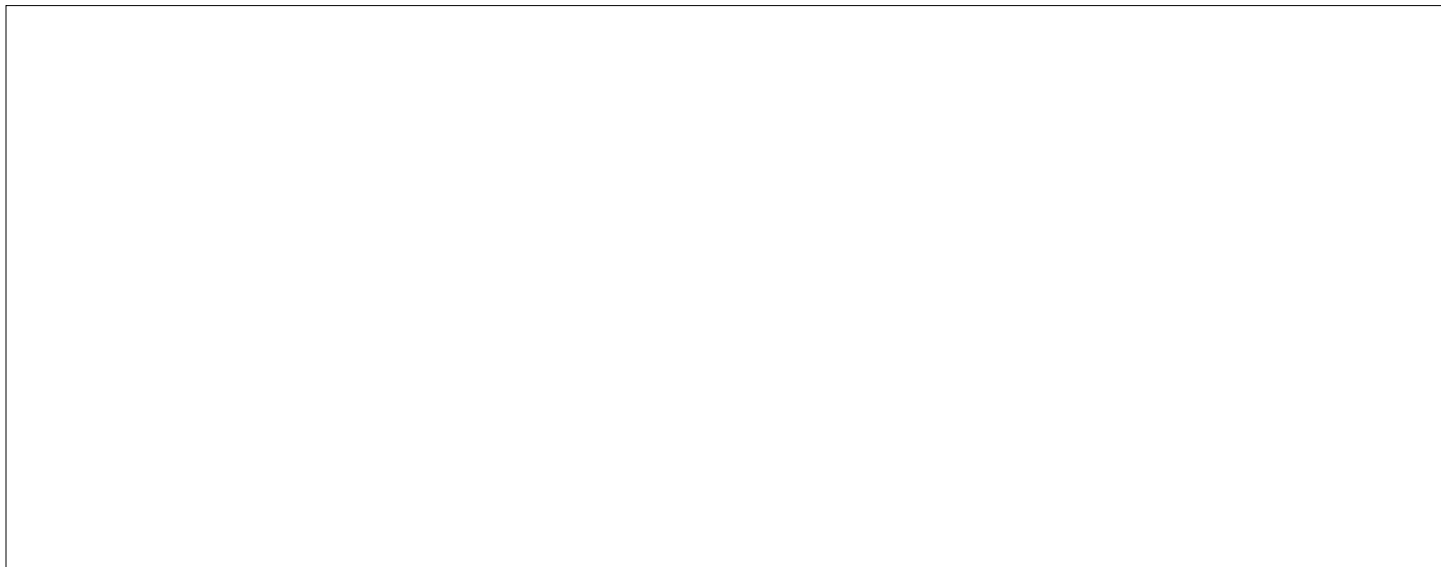
What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
John 8:13 	Anyone can make any claim they want with only themselves to back it up.	Is what I say based on Scripture, so that it is backed up by God?
John 8:14 	The testimony of the Son of God is valid, because he came from God's presence and would return to God's presence. His words are truth from God himself.	How do I view Jesus' words? Do I live by them?
John 8:15 	Those challenging him were doing so from their human perspective. Jesus was not yet acting as Judge, though eventually he will.	What is my attitude toward other people? Am I anyone's judge? To whom are all of us actually accountable?

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 8:16</p>	<p>Jesus knew the truth about each person because of the power of God, his Heavenly Father.</p>	<p>What criteria should I use to make judgment calls about other people?</p> <p>By what truths do I live my life?</p>
<p>John 8:17</p>	<p>By their standards ...</p>	<p>How easy is it to condemn someone else?</p> <p>How easily do I want to be condemned by others?</p>
<p>John 8:18</p>	<p>Jesus and the Father qualify as two witnesses.</p>	<p>Why can I trust what Jesus says? (John 10:30)</p>

Day 86

Read John 8:13-18

What would I like to say to Jesus?

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Day 87

Read John 8:19-20

What would I like to say to Jesus?

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Day 88

Read John 8:21-24

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
John 8:21 	Jesus knew that he would give his life on the cross. He knew that he would go back to the Father in Heaven. He knew that those who rejected him and his message would not be saved from God's judgment.	Jesus gave his life on the cross for someone I know who is about to die in his or her sins. Who do I know who is nearing the end of life without belief in Jesus?
John 8:22 	Those who did not believe he was God's Son did not understand his words. Their interpretations of Jesus' words were totally inaccurate.	Those who reject Jesus refuse to believe that he is enthroned in heaven right now, seated at the right hand of God, awaiting the time of his return to earth as King. What totally inaccurate things do people in our culture say about Jesus?
John 8:23 	Their unbelief restricted them from heaven and heavenly things.	Rejection of Jesus restricts peoples' understanding: they can only understand earthly matters. In any way, am I closing my mind to heavenly things and thereby forcing my focus to be only on earthly things, limiting God's working in my life?

Day 88

Read John 8:21-24

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 8:24</p> <div data-bbox="100 281 428 831" style="border: 1px solid black; height: 262px;"></div>	<p>The consequence of rejecting who Jesus is, is to die in our sins. He is the One God sent to deliver us from our sins. If we reject God's provision for our forgiveness and salvation, we cannot expect to have our sins taken care of.</p>	<p>On what do I base my belief that God will forgive my sins and welcome me to heaven?</p> <div data-bbox="789 310 1524 520" style="border: 1px solid black; height: 100px;"></div> <p>Who do I know who is rejecting Jesus' claims to be the Son of God who came and died to take their sins? On what are they depending rather than on Jesus' sacrifice?</p> <div data-bbox="789 621 1524 831" style="border: 1px solid black; height: 100px;"></div>

What do I need to say to Jesus?

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 8:25</p>	<p>Refusal to believe in Jesus is denial of Jesus and, ultimately, rejection of who he said he is.</p>	<p>Why does what I believe about Jesus matter?</p> <p>How does what others in my life believe about Jesus matter?</p>
<p>John 8:26</p>	<p>Ultimately, Jesus will judge those who reject him. While here on earth, Jesus remained focused on what the Heavenly Father wanted the people to know.</p>	<p>Why does it matter to God when people reject Jesus?</p>
<p>John 8:27</p>	<p>Those who rejected Jesus, rejected that he is the Son of God who was sent from God with the message of how to be saved from God's wrath. Their unbelief caused them to act in ignorance of who Jesus is. (Acts 3:17-20)</p>	<p>Why would God condemn people who reject Jesus? (John 3:17-18)</p>
<p>John 8:28</p>	<p>The consequences of their rejection of Jesus were enormous. Jesus knew that they would crucify him as the ultimate rejection of who he said he was. When they did, he knew that they would realize he truly is the Son of God.</p>	<p>What consequences have I seen because of my unbelief or the unbelief of people in my life?</p>

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 8:29</p>	<p>Jesus had the assurance of God's approval and presence. Jesus always did what the Father asked of him.</p>	<p>What resulted from Jesus' obedience?</p> <p>Do I always do what the Father asks of me? Does it matter?</p>
<p>John 8:30</p>	<p>The same words and deeds which these leaders rejected were mixed with faith in other hearers. Many people believed and accepted Jesus' words, resulting in their salvation.</p>	<p>What results or consequences have I seen in my life because of my belief in Jesus and my obedience to the Father, or the belief and obedience of people I know?</p>

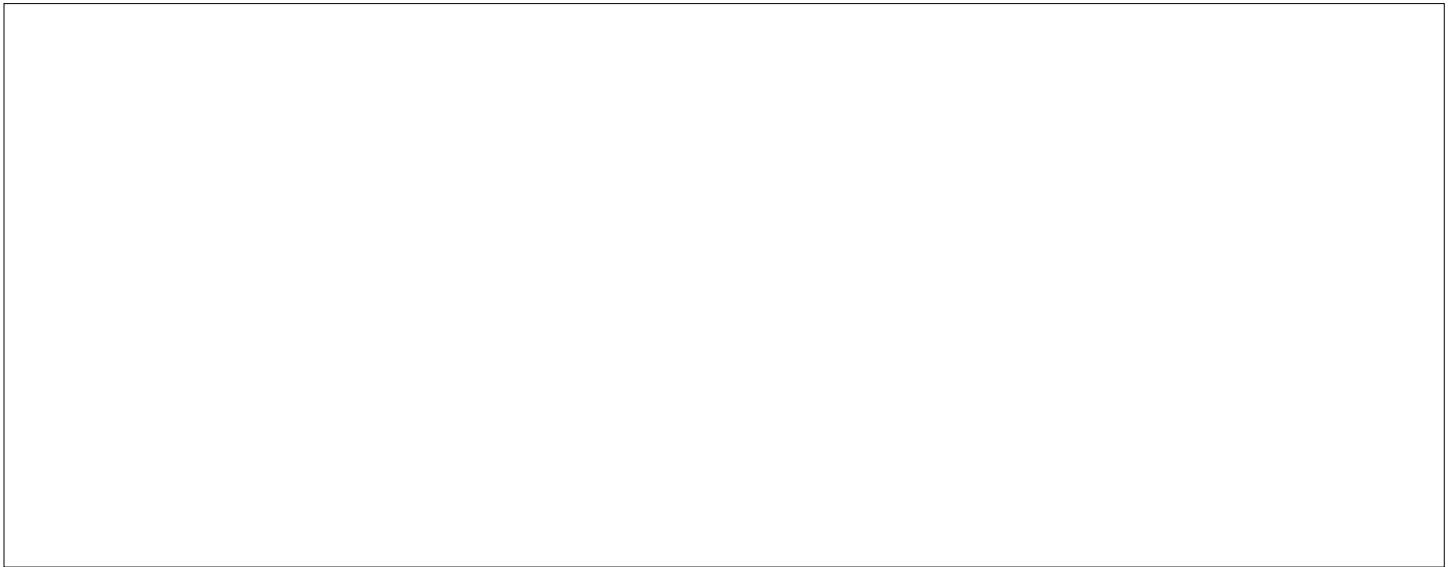
What would I like to say to Jesus?

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 8:31</p>	<p>The first believers in the early Christian church were Jewish.</p> <p>Those who claim the name of Jesus must be living in a way that is consistent with Jesus' teachings. Many evil things have been done in the name of Jesus by people who claim to be Christians or are falsely assumed to be Christians. Even true Christians can be misled or selfishly motivated. We need to hold to Jesus' teachings and try to accurately represent him and the freedom from sin he offers to all people.</p>	<p>Why do I think people today accept Jesus as the Messiah and Son of God, or reject him?</p> <p>Is my life consistent with Jesus' teachings?</p> <p>How do I know that I am accurately representing Jesus if I claim to be his follower?</p>
<p>John 8:32</p>	<p>The truth of who Jesus is can set us free from the lure, guilt, and condemnation of sin. If we are consistently walking in the love of Jesus, we will be able to discern what is true and right. (Philippians 1:9-11) Walking with Jesus frees us to do what is right and to leave the rest to him without great concern of condemnation from God or harm from this evil world.</p>	<p>How am I able to discern what is true and right?</p> <p>On what can I focus my energy today?</p>

Day 90

Read John 8:31-32

What would I like to say to Jesus?

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What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 8:33</p>	<p>They prided themselves on being Abraham's descendants. They did not see their need for Jesus. They could only think in concrete, earthly terms and could not see their spiritual need. Their ancestors were slaves in Egypt. God allowed that to happen as a picture of living in sin, being apart from God. He delivered them (The Exodus) as a picture of his salvation to come later through Christ. In God's eyes, choosing to sin is being a slave to that sin.</p>	<p>What do I currently think is my greatest need for today?</p> <p>What is my greatest real, <i>spiritual</i> need today?</p> <p>How does sinning turn into slavery to that sin?</p>
<p>John 8:34</p>	<p>Everyone is a slave to sin until they come to Jesus to be delivered.</p>	<p>Is anything enslaving me right now?</p>
<p>John 8:35</p>	<p>Jesus, God's Son, has an enduring, privileged place before God.</p>	<p>Why can I trust Jesus to take care of my sin forever?</p>
<p>John 8:36</p>	<p>Because Jesus is God's Son, his salvation is effective and enduring.</p>	<p>What do I need to entrust to Jesus' care today?</p>

Day 91

Read John 8:33-36

What would I like to say to Jesus?

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 8:37</p>	<p>Jesus was also a descendant of Abraham, humanly speaking, but Jesus said that he had existed before Abraham. These people had no room in their hearts for what was pleasing to God, and no room for Abraham's faith.</p>	<p>Is there room in my heart today for the words of Jesus?</p>
<p>John 8:38</p>	<p>Jesus was telling them about heavenly blessings from God, but their hearts were so far from God that they were more responsive to Satan's destructive desires.</p>	<p>What do I do when Jesus tries to tell me about the Heavenly Father?</p> <p>Who is my Father? Whose lead do I follow and respond to?</p>
<p>John 8:39</p>	<p>They were trusting in their position as descendants of Abraham. They were so self-centered and ungodly that Jesus saw no evidence of the faith and obedience to God that was typical of their forefather Abraham.</p>	<p>Am I trusting in some position, title, system, or tradition other than Jesus?</p> <p>What evidence of Abraham-like faith and friendship with God does Jesus see in my life? (Genesis 15:6)</p>

Day 92

Read John 8:37-39

What would I like to say to Jesus?

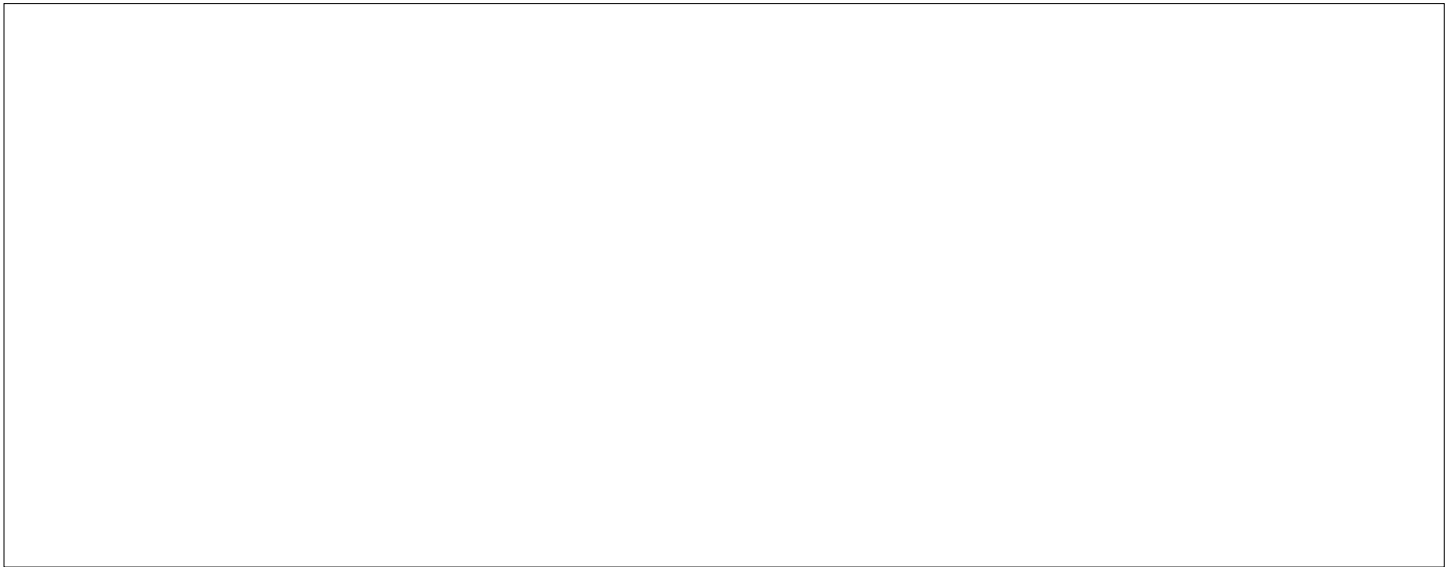
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What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 8:40</p>	<p>Jesus said that Abraham would have honored anyone who told him truths about God. The elite controlling the Jewish people claimed they were like Abraham, but they weren't.</p>	<p>How do I treat those who tell me truths from God?</p> <p>Would God consider me a spiritual descendent of Abraham based on my faith, life, and actions toward God and people?</p>
<p>John 8:41</p>	<p>They were actually carrying out plans and activities against their neighbors, doing things that were against God's laws and wishes. They were doing deeds that were more in keeping with Satan's aims to kill and destroy and hold power over others. They claimed to have God's sanction and approval.</p>	<p>What examples have I experienced of those in power over others doing wrong and claiming to do it in God's name?</p> <p>How do I think God feels about someone who misrepresents him and does evil in God's name?</p>
<p>John 8:42</p>	<p>God sent Jesus. Jesus knew God's heart. Anyone who was truly seeking God would have recognized that the teachings of Jesus were true and good. Those who accepted his words did so because they coincided with what they knew God would have said.</p>	<p>What about Jesus especially resonates with me, revealing the Heavenly Father to me?</p>

Day 93

Read John 8:40-42

What would I like to say to Jesus?

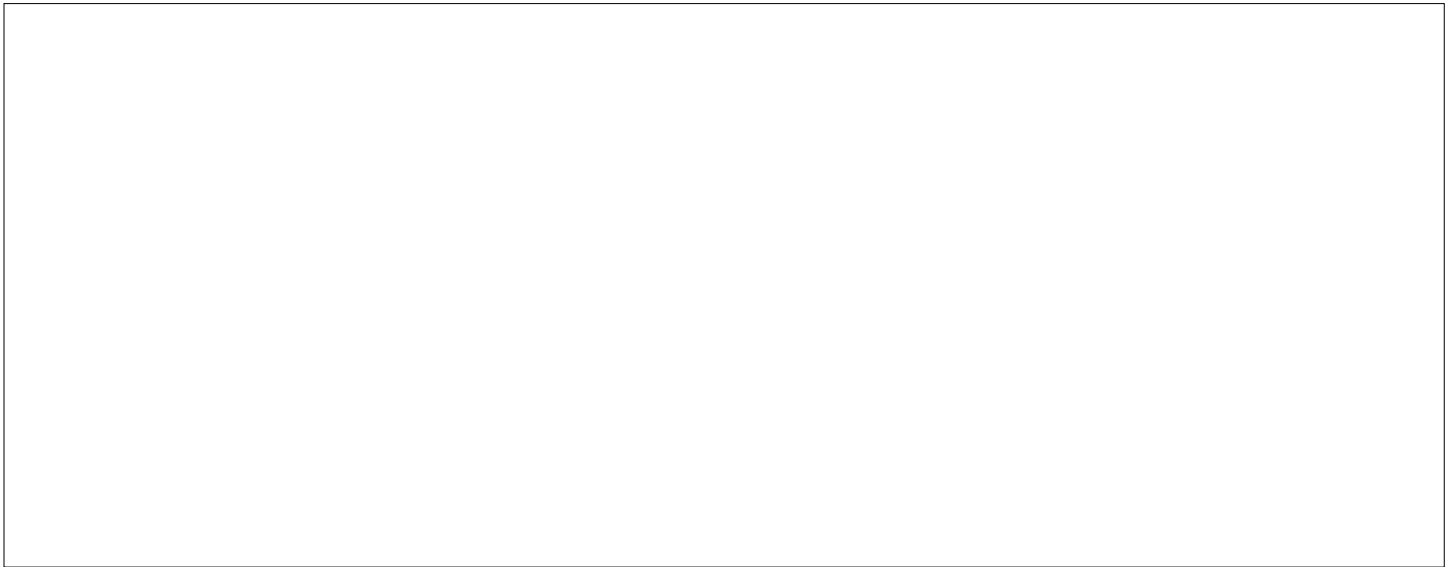
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What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 8:43</p>	<p>Sometimes people are unable to hear Jesus because their mindset and their hearts are so closed to him.</p>	<p>Is my heart open to Jesus' words today?</p>
<p>John 8:44</p>	<p>The devil is a real being. Jesus knew the devil from the beginning. The devil's desire is to deceive and destroy. Murder is from the devil. The devil is a master of deception and lying.</p>	<p>What are my desires today?</p> <p>Who is the author and source of my deceptions and destructive desires?</p> <p>Instead, what can I do today to build up and encourage others, in Jesus' name? (Galatians 5:13-15)</p>

Day 94

Read John 8:43-44

What would I like to say to Jesus?

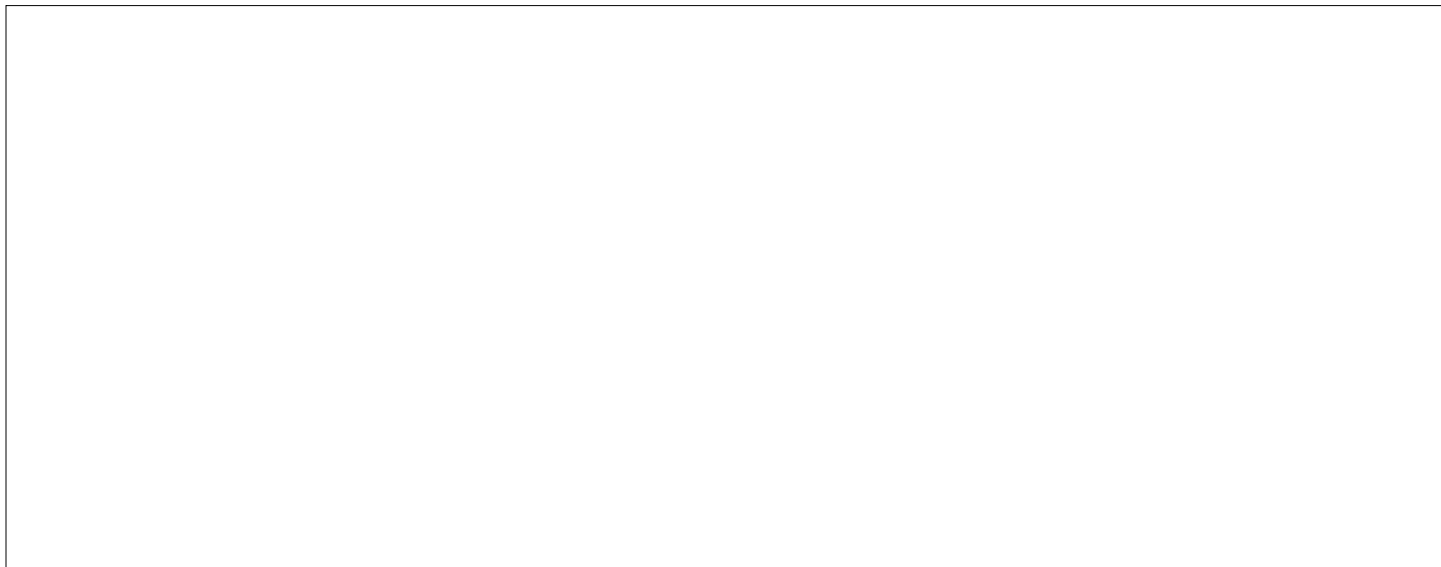
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What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 8:45</p>	<p>Those seeking to do away with Jesus were unwilling to believe him, even though he spoke truth. Today, just as it has always been, some people will never repent of wickedness and never turn to God. Others repent of evil only when Jesus comes to that person with a personal revelation of his love. Others are brought to repentance and acceptance of Jesus because they see and experience the love of Christians around them and they recognize the truth about Jesus because of God's love shining through his people.</p>	<p>If I am a follower of Jesus, Jude v. 17-25 contains wise advice. (Note: the book of Jude is so short it has no chapter divisions.)</p> <p>According to these verses in Jude, what are my responsibilities toward (1) myself, (2) God, (3) other believers, (4) the ungodly, (5) and toward the most wicked and violent people who are immersed in Satan's deceptive lies?</p>
<p>John 8:46</p>	<p>Jesus is true and truthful. He did not sin but rather lived for doing God's will and gave everything for us. Such behavior deserves our attention.</p>	<p>How do I daily show Jesus that he has my attention and trust?</p>
<p>John 8:47</p>	<p>If we belong to God we will recognize his words in what Jesus said.</p>	<p>How does my life reflect the truths Jesus revealed about God? (Luke 6:27-36)</p>

Day 95

Read John 8:45-47

What do I need to say to Jesus?

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Day 96

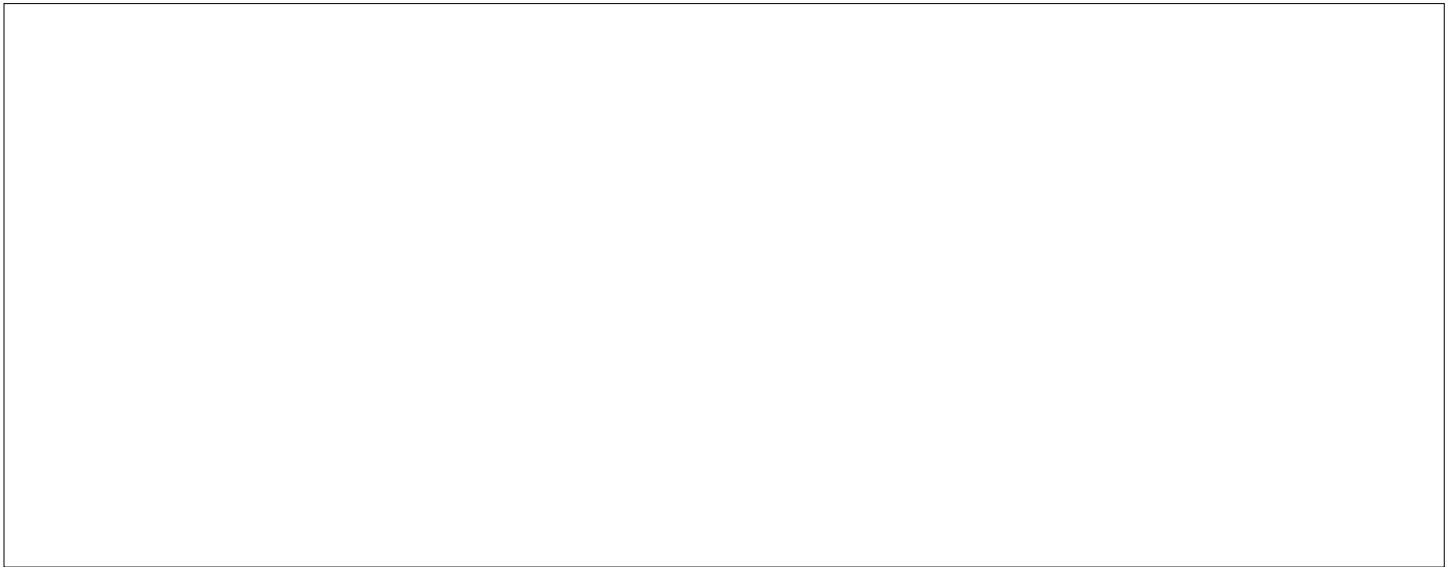
Read John 8:48-51

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 8:48</p>	<p>Jesus had said that they did not belong to God. Their response was to equate Jesus with those they considered the lowest and most ungodly components of their society.</p>	<p>Am I discouraged when I see someone respond to Jesus with rejection, denial, and scorn? How does it make me feel?</p>
<p>John 8:49</p>	<p>Jesus lived to bring honor to the Heavenly Father and he was being discredited for that. Those who denigrate Jesus are denigrating God.</p>	<p>How does God feel about Jesus? (Christ's baptism: Matthew 3:17; With Moses and Elijah: Matthew 17:5)</p>
<p>John 8:50</p>	<p>Jesus came to do what God wanted him to do. He came to give up his own life and glory for our sakes. Because of that, God has given Jesus, his Son, a greater glory than anyone else.</p>	<p>How well do I seek glory for Jesus and the Father in Heaven rather than for myself? How could I do better?</p>
<p>John 8:51</p>	<p>God has decreed that believing Jesus, accepting his words, and living by them is the basis on which he will judge us. Following Jesus' teachings gives life now and for eternity!</p>	<p>What life have I already received and will I receive from Jesus? (Revelation 20:14-15)</p>

Day 96

Read John 8:48-51

What would I like to say to Jesus?

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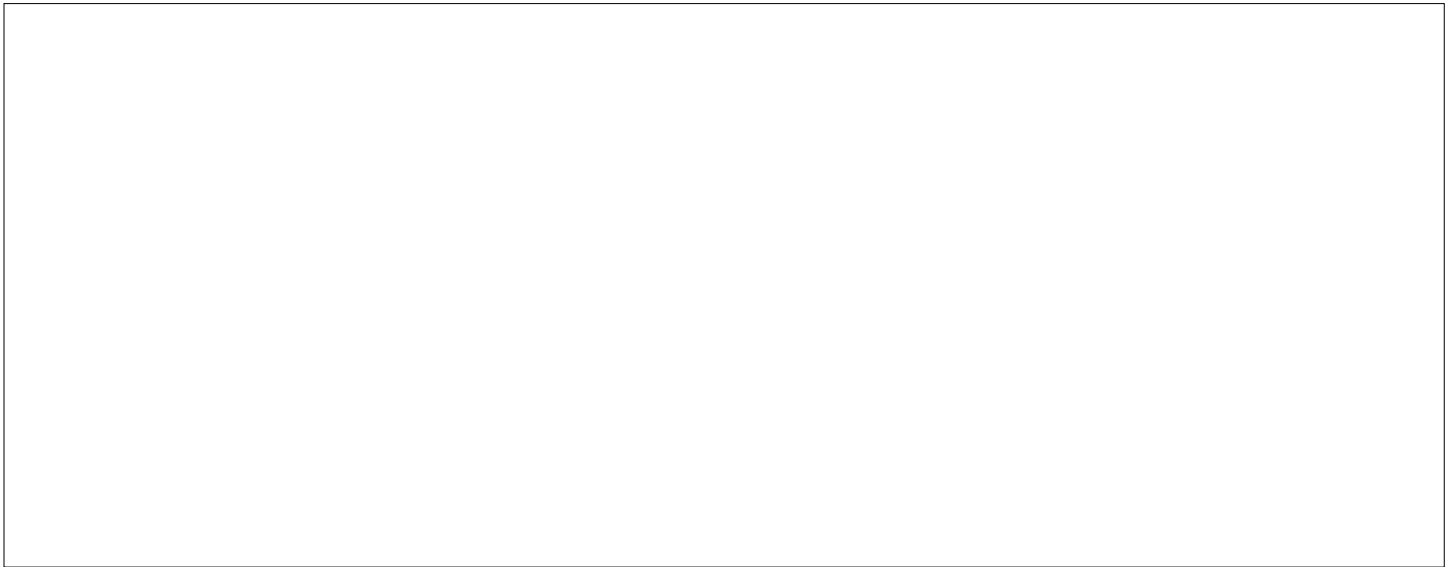
What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 8:52</p>	<p>Jesus' claim is very simply that believing him and following him is the way to eternal life.</p>	<p>How does it affect my living and attitudes or thinking about life and about death to know that I will live forever with Jesus?</p>
<p>John 8:53</p>	<p>Those who reject Jesus' deity do not understand who he is. Therefore, they don't believe he rose from the grave to live forever.</p>	<p>Do I think there is anyone greater than Jesus? Why is Jesus greater than Abraham or any other great leader since the beginning of the world? (Philippians 2:8-11)</p>
<p>John 8:54</p>	<p>Jesus was not seeking his own glory: he was not setting himself up as their king. He came to do what the Father asked, and the glory that would come as a result of offering up his life would be from God, his Father.</p>	<p>What desires or situations cause me to try to glorify myself? How can I turn those situations into glory to Jesus and the Father in Heaven?</p>

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 8:56</p>	<p>Abraham lived by faith, believing that God would make him into a great nation and bless all the peoples of the earth through him. (Genesis 12:2-3) God's promises to Abraham would be fulfilled through Jesus. (Galatians 3:8-9)</p>	<p>What would my day today look like if I were to truly walk by faith? (Hebrews 11:1,6)</p>
<p>John 8:57</p>	<p>The leaders mocked Jesus. They did not believe that Jesus actually did know Abraham.</p>	<p>How does rejection of Jesus' deity limit the understanding of those who don't know Jesus?</p>
<p>John 8:58</p>	<p>This reply from Jesus is a statement of equating himself with God, the eternal "I AM" of Exodus 3:14, who sent Moses to deliver the Israelites.</p>	<p>What does it mean to me and to the world, practically, that Jesus is God, the one true I AM?</p>
<p>John 8:59</p>	<p>The punishment for claiming equality with God under the Law was stoning to death. Jesus did not die from stoning.</p>	<p>Why did Jesus die? (Romans 4:25, I Peter 3:18)</p> <p>Who decided when and how Jesus would die? (Philippians 2:5-8; Matthew 26:42, 53-54; Matthew 27:50; Galatians 1:3-4)</p>

Day 98

Read John 8:56-59

What would I like to say to Jesus?

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