

Facilitator:

1. Open with Prayer
2. Welcome any newcomers
3. Give a five-minute review of the sermon using Peppy's sermon notes.

Facilitator:

Please don't feel you have to cover every question. They become increasingly deeper and more thoughtful toward the end. It may help to highlight questions you want to be sure to cover, depending on the dynamics of your group and the time available. Try to keep your discussion to an hour and a half at the most.

CONNECT Group study questions, John 8:48-59

Title: Death is Not the End

Read John 8:48-59— *“The Jews answered him, ‘Are we not right in saying that you are a Samaritan and have a demon?’ Jesus answered, ‘I do not have a demon, but I honor my Father, and you dishonor me. Yet I do not seek my own glory; there is One who seeks it, and he is the judge. Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death.’ The Jews said to him, ‘Now we know that you have a demon! Abraham died, as did the prophets, yet you say, ‘If anyone keeps my word, he will never taste death.’ Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? And the prophets died! Who do you make yourself out to be?’ Jesus answered, ‘If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, of whom you say, ‘He is our God.’ But you have not known him. I know him. If I were to say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and I keep his word. Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad.’ So the Jews said to him, ‘You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?’ Jesus said to them, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.’ So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.”*

Question: These verses complete a confrontation Jesus had with Jewish leaders. Jesus could have avoided it simply by walking away before it became more heated. Instead he continued to speak the truth as the Jewish leaders became more angry. Why do you suppose Jesus endured the per-

sonal attacks and insults from a group of men who were willfully blind to everything he had to say?

Question: In last week's lesson, we learned that there are two world views: One is of God and one is of the devil. This truth angered the Jewish leaders when Jesus spoke it. Is this a truth we should confront unbelievers with when we present the gospel, knowing it could make them angry and stop listening? Have you ever witnessed to someone who became angry about the truth of the gospel? If so, share your experience with the group.

Question: When discussions turn into conflict, they follow a pattern: Intellectual Disagreement to Emotional Argument to Verbal Abuse to Physical Violence. Why was this the pattern on only one side of the discussion? Why didn't Jesus' interactions with people who the Jewish leaders condemned as sinners follow the same pattern?

Read: 1 Peter 2:21-25—*For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, **leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps, who committed no sin, nor was any deceit found in His mouth; and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously; and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed. For you were continually straying like sheep, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls.** Question:* Discuss how Jesus' interaction with the Jewish leaders in John 8 is "*an example for you to follow?*"

Question: What spiritual truths can you spot from this John 8:48-59 passage? Which of these truths (if any) make you angry? Which give you comfort? Why? **Facilitator:** Jesus is honored, elevated, glorified by God the Father. God the Father is in judgement of mankind. For the person who seeks to follow Jesus, the living Word of God, eternal life begins at the moment of faith in Christ. How many more can you find?