

Believe and Have Life

The Gospel of John

John 8:31–47

Read John 8:31–47.

1. Jesus is still in the temple and is teaching those who claim to “believe” in him. What is the difference between mere belief and genuine faith? (vv. 31–32; Jn. 6:60, 66–69)
2. These Jewish listeners are proud of the status that comes from being the descendants of Abraham. How did Abraham live a life of genuine faith?
Gen. 12:1–5; Heb. 11:8–11


Gen. 15:4–6; Rom. 4:18–22


Heb. 11:17–19


3. These listeners may be Abraham’s physical descendants, but how are they showing that they are not truly Abraham’s children? (vv. 37c, 39–40; 5:37–43)

4. What claim do they make? (v. 41b)

Why does Jesus reject it? (v. 42)

5. Who does Jesus say their real father is, and what is he like? (v. 44;  * 2 Cor. 11:13–15)

*The  symbol indicates verses for further study.

6. How has the devil been a murderer and a liar from the beginning? (Gen. 3:1–13; Rom. 5:12; 1 Cor. 15:21–22;  * Gen. 4:6–8; 1 Jn. 3:12)

7. How are Jesus' listeners behaving like their true father? (vv. 37–38, 40a, 44)

8. What is another problem they have, and what causes it? (vv. 43, 47; 5:39–40)

9. Jesus describes them as “slaves of sin” (v. 34). Why is this such a fitting description of their overall spiritual condition?

10. What is Jesus, the Son, willing to do? (vv. 34–36)

11. Jesus says, “You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free” (v. 32). What three aspects of the truth set us free from our terrible slavery to sin?
 - a. 14:6

 - b. 8:26, 28, 40

 - c. Rom. 5:6–8, 18–19; 6:17–18

12. Do you see yourself as a slave to sin? If so, how can you be set free today by the truth?

If you've been set free, rejoice that you are “free indeed” (v. 36). (You may want to consider Gal. 2:20.)