



Walking With the Savior

Through An Eyewitness Account of John

John, one of the sons of Zebedee, stood as an eyewitness to the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. He began his journey as a fisherman, leaving behind his nets and the future he had planned for himself to follow a teacher, a prophet, and a miracle worker. At the outset, John did not fully understand who Jesus was or what lay ahead. In faith, he aligned himself with Jesus, drawn by His words and deeds.

As John walked alongside Jesus, witnessing His teachings and miracles, he gradually realized that Jesus was far more than a prophet or a remarkable teacher. John came to understand that Jesus was God in the flesh. This revelation was not just a turning point for John personally, but a moment of eternal significance. By choosing to follow Jesus, John's future was forever changed, and his decision would go on to impact the world—not only in his own time but throughout every generation to come. ***Let's embark on an inspiring journey with John as we walk alongside Jesus.***

Background Matters

8:31–32. **Jews who had believed Him** indicates that some paid attention to Jesus' words without necessarily committing themselves to Him personally (cf. 6:53). It was possible to "believe" in the message of repentance and the coming kingdom without being born again. Continuing in the truth is the sign of true followers and learners (**disciples**). If they really grasped His message, they would find salvation **truth**. Knowing this salvation truth would liberate them from their bondage in sin.

8:33. Their response indicated that they had not grasped Christ's message. Even though they were under Rome, they insisted that as **Abraham's descendants** they were **free** men. How could Jesus free them when they were not **slaves**? They had no sense of their bondage to sin.

8:34. Three times in this chapter (vv. 34, 51, 58) **Jesus** said, **I tell you the truth** (cf. comments on 1:51). The very act of committing **sin** reveals that the one doing the act is under the power and authority of sin. Sin is personified as a cruel master. Paul used the same illustration (Rom. 6:15–23).

8:35. Just as Ishmael, Abraham's **slave** son, was cast out of the house (Gen. 21:8–21), so those in sin are in danger. Isaac was a **son** who belonged and therefore remained in the house. Were they like Ishmael, or Isaac? The issue was not physical genealogy but spiritual kinship.



8:36. Jesus is **the** true **Son** and seed of Abraham (Gal. 3:16). He remains in the house and is over it (Heb. 3:6). People can become truly **free** by becoming sons of God by faith in Christ, *the* Son (Gal. 3:26).

8:37. Physically the Jews of course **are** the **descendants** of Abraham. **Yet** this same crowd was seeking **to kill** Jesus, Abraham's true Son, thus showing that they were not Abraham's *spiritual* descendants (cf. Rom. 2:28–29; 9:6, 8; Gal. 3:29). They were rejecting His message (**My word**).

8:38. Jesus spoke what He had **seen in the Father's presence** (cf. v. 28). Thus His words are God's truth. But the people had no affinity for His words because they listened to *their father* (Satan; v. 44) and followed him. As yet Jesus had not identified their father, but the implication was becoming plain.

8:39. To counter the thrust of Jesus' argument, the Jews claimed **Abraham** as their spiritual **father**. But **Jesus** responded by stating that spiritual descendants of Abraham **do** what **Abraham did**, that is, they believe and obey God. They should respond in faith to the heavenly messenger and do what He says. John the Baptist had earlier warned the Jews against the danger of trusting in their Abrahamic lineage (Luke 3:8).

8:40. But they were rejecting the heavenly Messenger and seeking **to kill** the One who **told** them God's Word. **Abraham did not do** that; he was obedient to God's commands (cf. Gen. 12:1–9; 15:6; 22:1–19).

8:41. The Jews' works were different, so their **father** (cf. v. 38) must also be different. They could seek to evade Jesus' logic only by denying an illegitimate human paternity and claiming a heavenly one. In their denial, **We are not illegitimate children**, they may have been casting aspersions on Jesus' birth.¹

Jesus came into the world not to condemn it but to save it (3:17). Yet, the Father "has entrusted all judgment to the Son" (5:22), and Jesus says, "For judgment I have come into this world" (9:39). In a sense, men and women judge themselves by their reactions to Jesus—by whether they choose light, belief, and sight, or darkness, unbelief, and blindness (3:18–21; 9:39).

Sin and judgment were major issues for the law-minded Jews, and they are major issues for Jesus and His Father. Read 7:53–9:41 again, this time noticing how John weaves Jesus' teaching on sin and judgment into the debates about light and sight.²

This week in "Walking With the Savior"

In our society, committing a crime results in a loss of freedom as the justice system takes control. The criminal does not determine the terms; they must face the established consequences. Jesus did not come to create a new legal framework but to illuminate timeless principles. He assured His followers, "If you abide in my word, you are indeed my disciples." His teachings

¹ Edwin A. Blum, "John," in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 304–305.

² The Navigators, *LifeChange: John*, ed. Karen Lee-Thorp, The LifeChange Bible Study Series (Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 2010), 101.



guide us toward His kingdom, providing clarity and authority. True disciples leave behind old allegiances and find freedom from sin through Him.

Understanding this liberation is essential, especially for those burdened by past sins. The transformative promise of freedom in Christ offers a chance to thrive.

This week's study encourages everyone to explore Jesus' guidance toward a life of freedom. Even if someone does not see themselves as a "criminal in sin," this is an opportunity for growth.

Recognizing the consequences of straying from God's true standard can lead to a brighter future filled with hope and freedom from sin's repercussions!

Study Guide 27

This study guide presents daily assignments that are specifically crafted to enhance your growth in the Word. Embrace each moment to meditate and reflect, and watch as your spiritual maturity flourishes through your dedicated efforts.

****FREEDOM IN THE SON****

John 8:31–41

Open It, Mondays. Open your heart and mind to the truth of the Word.

1. What does it mean to you to be free? What doesn't it mean?

Explore It, Tuesdays, keep the rhythm of personal study moving.

2. What did Jesus say to the Jews who had believed in Him? (8:31)

3. *What did Jesus say the truth would do for those who knew it? (8:32)

4. How did the Jews respond to Jesus' statement about freedom? (8:33)



5. *Who did Jesus say is a slave to sin? (8:34)

6. How does Jesus distinguish a slave from a son? (8:35)

7. *What is the result of being freed by the Son? (8:36)

8. What did Jesus say the Jews were ready to do? (8:37)

Push on Wednesday, keep the rhythm of personal study moving.

9. Who did the Jews say was their father? (8:39)

10. In what way were the Jews mistaken about Abraham? (8:39)

11. What did Abraham not do? (8:40)

12. What claim did Jesus' accusers make? (8:41)

13. How are you like your mother or father?

14. To what sin are you a slave?



15. *From what sin have you been set free?

Get It Thursdays, keep the rhythm of personal study moving.

16. *How does truth set someone free?

17. How has the Son set you free?

18. In what way are we like God our Father?

19. When do we act like illegitimate children?

20. *How can you better enjoy your freedom in the Son?

Drive it Home, Fridays, keep the rhythm of personal study moving.

21. From what enslaving sin will you ask God to set you free?

22. What action will you take in order to act more like a child of God?

A Journey Through The Gospel of John **2026**

Download your study guide at:

Unlockingthetruth.us