



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

8:42. **Love** is a family affair (1 John 5:1). If the Jews really had **God** as their **Father** and really loved Him (the Gr. assumes they did not), then they **would** have loved **Jesus** because He **came from God**. Jesus again affirmed His position as God's Representative: the Father **sent** Him.

8:43. Jesus the *Logos* speaks to people, but their fundamental opposition to Him caused them to misunderstand His **language**. **Unable to hear** means a spiritual inability to respond. The rendering **what I say** is literally, "My word" (*logos*). Paul later wrote that "the man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him" (1 Cor. 2:14).

8:44. **The devil** is the enemy of life and **truth**. By a lie he brought spiritual and physical death to mankind (cf. Gen. 3:4, 13; 1 John 3:8, 10–15.) He still distorts truth (**there is no truth in him ... he is a liar and the father of lies**) and seeks to lead people away from God, the Source of truth and life (2 Cor. 4:4). Since these Jews wanted Jesus' death and since they rejected the truth and embraced the lie, their family solidarity with Satan and his desires was certain. How different from having Abraham as their father!



8:45. Jesus, in contrast with them, lives in **truth** and proclaims it. Since unbelievers love darkness not light (cf. 3:19–20), and falsehood not reality, they reject Jesus.

8:46. Many accusations had been made against Jesus (cf. 7:12b, 20). But He is so committed to doing God's will ("I always do what pleases Him" [8:29]) that it is impossible to show any connection between Jesus and sin: **Can any of you prove Me guilty of sin?** Since this is so, they should have recognized His divine origin. His second question, **Why don't you believe Me?** is answered in the next verse.

8:47. Belonging **to God** is the basis for hearing Him. To **hear** God is **not** a matter of being able to discern audible sounds but of obeying the heavenly commands. Jesus' hearers absolute rejection of the heavenly Word was a clear reflection **that** they did **not belong to God** (lit., "are not of God").

8:48. Samaritans were a mixed race with a religion the Jews considered apostate (cf. comments on 4:4). To call Jesus **a Samaritan** was to use a term of abuse, referring to a heretic or one with a faulty worship. Their charge that Jesus was **demon-possessed** (cf. 7:20; 8:52; 10:20) suggested they thought He was mad, unclean, and evil. How ironic that after He said their father was the devil (8:44), they said He was demon-possessed!

8:49–50. Jesus' claims were not those of a **demon-possessed** person. He was seeking not self-exaltation but the **honor** of His **Father**. Their attempt to **dishonor** Him was an attack on His Father. (Cf. Hanun's attack on David's messengers, which was an insult against the king; 2 Sam. 10:1–6.)

When accused, Jesus did not seek to justify Himself (cf. John 8:54). He committed His case to the heavenly **Judge**, knowing that even if people judge the Son falsely, the Father will reverse their verdict and vindicate Him.

8:51. Again Jesus said, **I tell you the truth** (cf. comments on 1:51). **Keeps My Word** is another way of expressing a positive response to His revelation. (Similar expressions are "hear" His Word [5:24] and "hold" to His teaching [8:31].) It means to observe, pay attention to, or to fulfill. A person who obeys Jesus **will never see death**, that is, **he** will not be eternally separated from God (cf. 3:16; 5:24).¹

This week in "Walking With the Savior"

The religious leader suggested that Jesus was influenced by demons. However, Jesus's statements were significantly removed from the irrational rhetoric typical of someone claimed to be possessed. Instead of seeking personal recognition or promoting Himself, His primary intention was to honor and glorify His Father in heaven.

When others tried to undermine or shame Him, their actions were not just an attack on Jesus; they were a direct affront to the honor of His Father. This highlighted a profound misunderstanding of His true mission and purpose. In

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), 305–306.



contrast to many people today, who struggle with identity crises largely due to broken family structures and the quest for validation through social media, Jesus remained firmly focused on the true priorities of life.

The ongoing exchanges between Jesus and His opponents highlight the perception that the heavenly Father knows each person by name and truly cares for His children.

Study Guide 28

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.

DO YOU KNOW YOUR FATHER'S NAME?

The Children of the Devil

John 8:42–47

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

1. *What makes mastering a second language so difficult?

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

2. What did Jesus say the Jews would do if God were their Father? (8:42)

3. Who sent Jesus? (8:42)



4. *Why did Jesus say that His language was unclear to His audience? (8:43)

5. What shocking fact did Jesus reveal about His audience? (8:44)

6. What did Jesus say was not in the devil? (8:44)

7. *What is the devil's native language? (8:44)

8. Of what did Jesus say the devil was the father? (8:44)

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

9. Why did Jesus' audience not believe Him? (8:45)

10. What did Jesus ask His audience to prove? (8:46)

11. *What did Jesus say that the person who belonged to God heard? (8:47)

12. What reason did Jesus give for these people's lack of hearing? (8:47)

13. What points to the fact that you belong to God?



14. How does a person show love for Jesus?

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

15. *What truths do you have a difficult time accepting?

16. How is our love for God reflected in our love for Christ?

17. *What does your speech reveal about you?

18. What is your native language: truth, lies, or another language?

19. How can we learn a new language?

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

20. What truth that is difficult for you to face will you ask God to help you confront today?

21. What change in your speech can you make this week to reflect your status as a child of God?

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

Download your study guide at:

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