SMITH FOR CHRIST · TEACHING THE WORD · WATCHING THE TIMES

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN · LEADER'S SHEET · THURSDAY JAN 7

John 8 · week 8 of 21

Before Abraham Was Born, I Am · Answers and notes for Thursday

READ MONDAY – WEDNESDAY · MEET THURSDAY EVENING, JANUARY 7

Answers to every worksheet question, with the exact NASB key-word counts. Personal questions are marked "Personal."

THE WEEK

Monday	Read John 8 straight through, then again with a pen and mark it · Mon, Jan 4
Tuesday	Read the study notes; answer the Observe questions and count the key words · Tue, Jan 5
Wednesday	Interpret, Weigh the Teachers, the Word study and Apply · Wed, Jan 6
Thursday evening	Together: watch the John 8 part of the film, go through the worksheet, pray · Thu, Jan 7

KEY VERSE

> **JOHN 8:58 · NASB**
>
> *"Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am."*

The chapter opens with a woman about to be stoned and ends with stones in the hands of men who "believed." In between, Jesus makes His boldest claims: the Light of the world, the Son who sets men free, the great I AM.

John 8 *Before Abraham Was Born, I Am*

KEY VERSE 8:58

Theme of the chapter. Jesus, the Light of the world and the eternal I AM, does not condemn the sinner who comes to Him but sends her out to sin no more. He frees from sin all who continue in His word. Religious men who claim God as Father but reject His Son show by their deeds whose children they really are.

KEY WORD COUNTS (NASB)

Father	**12**	vv. 16, 18, 19 (×3), 27, 28, 38, 41, 42, 49, 54
truth	**7**	vv. 32 (×2), 40, 44 (×2), 45, 46
free	**4**	vv. 32, 33, 36 (×2)
sin / sins	**8**	vv. 7, 11, 21, 24 (×2), 34 (×2), 46
Abraham	**11**	vv. 33, 37, 39 (×3), 40, 52, 53, 56, 57, 58
word	**6**	vv. 31, 37, 43, 51, 52, 55

JOHN 8:1–11 The Woman and Her Accusers

1 INTERPRET *The NASB brackets 7:53–8:11 because the earliest manuscripts of John do not contain it. How should a Bible reader handle a passage like this?*

> Tell the truth about its history, read it and learn from it, and build no doctrine on it alone. Nothing in it contradicts the rest of Scripture; Jesus says the same thing in 5:14: "do not sin anymore."

2 OBSERVE *Who brought the woman, what did they say the Law commanded, and why did they really bring her (8:3–6)?*

> The scribes and Pharisees. "In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women" (8:5). "They were saying this, testing Him, so that they might have grounds for accusing Him" (8:6).

3 INTERPRET *Read Leviticus 20:10. Who was missing from the scene, and what does that say about the accusers?*

> The man. The Law required death for both. They were using her to trap Jesus, not to keep the Law.

4 OBSERVE *What did Jesus say to the accusers (8:7), what did they do (8:9), and what did He say to the woman (8:11)?*

> "He who is without sin among you, let him be the first to throw a stone at her." They went out one by one, "beginning with the older ones." "I do not condemn you, either. Go. From now on sin no more" (8:11).

5 APPLY *"I do not condemn you" comes before "sin no more." Why does that order matter for a man trying to change?*

> Pardon is not the reward for changing; it is the power to change. Spurgeon notes He still condemned the sin.

JOHN 8:12–20 The Light of the World

6 OBSERVE *What does Jesus claim in 8:12, and what promise comes with it?*

> "I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life" (8:12).

7 INTERPRET *The Pharisees say His testimony about Himself is not true (8:13). How does Jesus answer using their own Law (8:17–18)?*

> The Law requires two witnesses. He testifies, and "the Father who sent Me testifies about Me" (8:18). Guzik: "those two witnesses exist; they are Jesus and His Father."

JOHN 8:21–30 Die in Your Sins

8 OBSERVE *What does Jesus warn will happen "unless you believe that I am He" (8:24)?*

> "You will die in your sins" (8:24).

9 INTERPRET *In 8:24 and 8:28, "He" is in italics in the NASB. Read Isaiah 43:10. What is Jesus claiming with the bare "I am"?*

> The Greek has only *egō eimi*. Guzik: the bare "I am" is "a claim to deity." It echoes Isaiah 43:10, "that I am He."

10 INTERPRET *When will they "know that I am He" (8:28)? What does "lift up" mean everywhere in John?*

> "When you lift up the Son of Man." In John it always means the cross (3:14; 12:32–33). Henry: "When the Son of man was crucified, the Son of man was glorified."

JOHN 8:31–36 Truth and Freedom

11 OBSERVE *What does Jesus say real disciples do, and what will happen to them (8:31–32)?*

> "If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free" (8:31–32).

12 INTERPRET *The Jews say they have never been enslaved (8:33). What slavery does Jesus mean (8:34), and who sets men free (8:36)?*

> "Everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin" (8:34). "If the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed" (8:36). Guzik: "Slavery to sin is the worst kind of slavery, because there is no escape from our self."

13 APPLY *Spurgeon: "we are not only free from, but we are free to." What sin still holds you, and what are you free to do instead?*

> Personal. Freedom comes from continuing in His word, and the truth that frees is a Person (8:36; 14:6).

JOHN 8:37–47 Whose Children

14 OBSERVE *The Jews claim Abraham, then God, as their father (8:39, 41). What test does Jesus give (8:39–40, 42)?*

> Abraham's children would do Abraham's deeds, and they are seeking to kill Him. "If God were your Father, you would love Me" (8:42).

15 WEIGH THE TEACHERS *Jesus says, "You are of your father the devil" (8:44). Sproul: "You are the children of the one you obey." Is this a word against the Jewish people?*

> No. Jesus, His disciples and the first church were Jews, and God's promises to Israel stand (Rom 11:1–2). It is a word to any religious man who claims God and acts like the murderer and liar.

16 APPLY *Sonship is shown by likeness. If someone watched your week, whose son would they say you are?*

> Personal. "He who is of God hears the words of God" (8:47).

JOHN 8:48–59 I AM

17 OBSERVE *What insult do they throw at Jesus (8:48), and what does He promise anyone who keeps His word (8:51)?*

> "You are a Samaritan and have a demon." "If anyone keeps My word he will never see death" (8:51).

18 OBSERVE *What does Jesus say about Abraham (8:56), and what is His final claim (8:58)?*

> "Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad" (8:56). "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am" (8:58).

19 INTERPRET *Henry: "he does not say, I was, but I am." Read Exodus 3:14 and Leviticus 24:16. What did Jesus claim, and how do the stones in 8:59 prove they understood Him?*

> He claimed the name God gave at the burning bush, eternal being. Abraham came to be; Jesus is. Blasphemy carried the death penalty, so they picked up stones.

20 APPLY *Many "believed" in 8:30 and picked up stones in 8:59. Spurgeon: "There is such a thing as a temporary faith; beware of it." How do you tell real faith from temporary faith?*

> Real disciples continue in His word (8:31). Sproul: "We must possess what we profess."

WORD STUDY

21 WORD *eleutheroō (G1659), to set free. Read Romans 6:18, 22 and Galatians 5:1. What are believers set free from, and what are they set free for?*

> Free from sin's mastery and the Law's condemnation; free to serve righteousness and God.

22 WORD *ginomai (G1096), to come into being. In 8:58 Jesus sets "Abraham was born" (came into being) against "I am." What is the difference between the two verbs?*

> Abraham had a beginning. Jesus has no beginning; He simply is.

ACTS 17:11 The Chosen check

> ACTS 17:11 · NASB
> *"...examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so."*

WATCH THIS WEEK

No episode in Seasons 1–5 dramatizes John 8

Answers and notes for the Chosen check. Let the group find the differences in the text before you give them.

C1 OBSERVE

No episode stages "Before Abraham was born, I am" (8:58). Read 8:58–59. What did the hearers understand Jesus to be claiming, and how do you know?

> They picked up stones to throw at Him (8:59). They heard Him claim the divine name, "I AM" (Exodus 3:14).

C2 OBSERVE

Read your Bible's note at 7:53–8:11. What does it say, and how should we handle a passage like this?

> Most Bibles note that the oldest manuscripts do not include it. Treat the note honestly; the truths in the passage are taught elsewhere in Scripture.

C3 INTERPRET

What did the episode add that John 8 does not say? Does the addition help you see the text, or does it change what the text means?

> Additions are not automatically wrong; they are not Scripture. The test is whether an addition changes what the text says about Jesus.

C4 APPLY

The Bereans received the word eagerly and examined the Scriptures daily (Acts 17:11). Where are you most tempted to let a picture, a sermon or a feeling stand in for the text?

> Personal. Press for one concrete habit: reading the chapter before watching, and checking every scene against it.

The Chosen is a drama, not Scripture. God's Word is the truth; where the film differs, the Word wins.