SMITH FOR CHRIST · TEACHING THE WORD · WATCHING THE TIMES

GROUP WORKSHEET · OBSERVE · INTERPRET · APPLY

John 8

Before Abraham Was Born, I Am

NAME _____ DATE _____

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.

BEFORE YOU ANSWER

1. Read John 8 straight through, then a second time slowly with a pen.
2. Mark what you see: God · commands · repeated words · sin / warnings · promises · time / place.
3. Answer from the text first. Write the verse number beside every answer.

COUNT THE KEY WORDS

Find each word in John 8. Tally it and note the verses. What does John keep coming back to?

WORD	HOW MANY?	VERSES
Father		
truth		
free		
sin / sins		
Abraham		
word		

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?

2 OBSERVE

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

3 INTERPRET

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

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)?

5 APPLY

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

JOHN 8:12–20 The Light of the World

6 OBSERVE

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

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)?

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)?

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"?

10 INTERPRET

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

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)?

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)?

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?

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)?

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?

16 APPLY

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

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)?

18 OBSERVE

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

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?

WORD STUDY The Greek behind the English

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?

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?

PUT IT TOGETHER The chapter as a whole

The theme. In one or two sentences of your own, what is John 8 about?

Jesus. What does this chapter show you about who Jesus is that you want to remember?

This week. What one thing will you do because of this chapter, and which brother will you tell?

Around the table. Prayer requests and what the other men saw that you missed.