

# Believe

JOHN

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## Community Group Material:

Ask one person to pray at the beginning of your meeting.

### Check-in

Check in with each other about how everyone is doing.

**Bible Reading:** John 8:31-47

### Sermon Summary:

It's important to remember that Jesus' heart & motive is always for people to experience freedom from any bondage they are in. And he's willing to go to great lengths for that to happen. In John 8:31-47, Jesus speaks to those who once believed but no longer do. And he takes a hard line with them & he does not back off even though he knows it's uncomfortable for them. Freedom from bondage is his goal. How does he try to help them to see that they are in fact in bondage? He gives them a paternity test. Who is their real father? They cling to Abraham as Jesus challenges them. Having been rebutted quite easily by Jesus, they then switch to God. Jesus uses their own actions over & over to prove that neither Abraham nor God was their father. Based on their holding to falsehood and wanting to kill Jesus, the only father they line up with is the devil.

### Discussion:

1. Those Jesus is speaking with once believed in him, but no longer did. Do you know someone who has had a de-conversion experience? Do you know why it happened?
2. What bondage are these people experiencing? How is Jesus trying to free them?
3. Talk with each other about how critical Jesus' Word is to setting us free. How have you been freed by his Word?
4. Why does Jesus keep pointing to their behaviour as evidence of their bondage?
5. Does it surprise you that Jesus says that the devil is actually their father? What does Jesus mean by that? Does the devil create some people and God create others?
6. To what in the Old Testament is Jesus referring to when he says, 'he was a murderer from the beginning' and 'he is a liar'?

**End with Prayer.**

- Ask God to help you see if there is any bondage in your life. Pray to be freed by Jesus.
- Pray for one another.