

Agape House of Worship
Wednesday Bible Study – May 6, 2026

Study Series: “That You May Believe” A Journey Through the Gospel of John

Part 14: Before Abraham Was, I AM: Truth, Freedom, spiritual parentage (Identity)

Text: John 8:31-59

Facilitator: Pastor Bimbola Lawore

INTRODUCTION:

We continue our study of the book of John by looking at an intense dialogue between Jesus and the teachers of the Law and their followers. Jesus wanted to convict their hearts, and for those who are genuine amongst them; He wanted to take them just from believing to obeying. He wanted them to understand what **a true believer is**, what truth is, what true freedom is and a true identity in God really is. He also wanted to reveal to them His true identity.

TRUTH: The Marks of a True Disciple – John 8:31-32

³¹ To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. ³² Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

- Jesus gave us the requirement of a true disciple, “hold to my teaching”, “abide in my word”, “continue in my word”, “obey my teaching”
- Believe in Jesus is important, but holding on to Jesus’s teaching is needed. John 15:4
- To be a disciple, believe in Jesus Christ is the beginning, abiding in His word is also required.

Question/Discussion:

1. What is the Truth?
2. Share how knowing the Truth has set you free

TRUE FREEDOM: What True Freedom Looks Like – John 8:33-36

*³³ They answered him, “We are Abraham’s descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?” ³⁴ Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, **everyone who sins is a slave to sin.** ³⁵ Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. ³⁶ **So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.***

- Sin makes us slaves; the son sets us free. Romans 8:2-4, Romans 6:5-7

TRUE IDENTITY: What True Identity Looks like - John 8:37-47

³⁷ I know that you are Abraham’s descendants. Yet you are looking for a way to kill me, because you have no room for my word. ³⁸ I am telling you what I have seen in the Father’s presence, and you are doing what you have heard from your father.” ³⁹ “Abraham is our father,” they answered. “If you were Abraham’s children,” said Jesus, “then you would^[c] do what Abraham did. ⁴⁰ As it is, you are looking for a way to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. Abraham did not do such things. ⁴¹ You are doing the works of your own

father. "We are not illegitimate children," they protested. "The only Father we have is God himself." ⁴² Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I have come here from God. I have not come on my own; God sent me. ⁴³ Why is my language not clear to you? Because you are unable to hear what I say. ⁴⁴ You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies. ⁴⁵ Yet because I tell the truth, you do not believe me! ⁴⁶ Can any of you prove me guilty of sin? If I am telling the truth, why don't you believe me? ⁴⁷ Whoever belongs to God hears what God says. The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to God."

Question/Discussion:

- ⇒ What did Abraham do? what was Jesus making reference to in (vs 39), Galatians 3:6
- ⇒ Why did Jesus call devil their father (vs 44), 1 John 3:8, Genesis 3:4
- Biological Identity versus Spiritual Identity. Galatians 3:7-9
- No matter what your biological origin looks like, you can change your spiritual family

JESUS' CLAIMS ABOUT HIMSELF JOHN 8:48 - 55

⁴⁸ The Jews answered him, "Aren't we right in saying that you are a Samaritan and demon-possessed?"

⁴⁹ "I am not possessed by a demon," said Jesus, "but I honor my Father and you dishonor me. ⁵⁰ I am not seeking glory for myself; but there is one who seeks it, and he is the judge. ⁵¹ Very truly I tell you, whoever obeys my word will never see death."⁵² At this they exclaimed, "Now we know that you are demon-possessed! Abraham died and so did the prophets, yet you say that whoever obeys your word will never taste death. ⁵³ Are you greater than our father Abraham? He died, and so did the prophets. Who do you think you are?" ⁵⁴ Jesus replied, "If I glorify myself, my glory means nothing. My Father, whom you claim as your God, is the one who glorifies me. ⁵⁵ Though you do not know him, I know him. If I said I did not, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and obey his word.

Question/Discussion:

- ⇒ Why did they call Jesus a Samaritan and said He was demon possessed (vs 48)?

THE BIG REVELATION "I AM" JOHN 8:56-59

⁵⁶ Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad.

⁵⁷ "You are not yet fifty years old," they said to him, "and you have seen Abraham!"

⁵⁸ "Very truly I tell you," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, I am!" ⁵⁹ At this, they picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus hid himself, slipping away from the temple grounds.

Exodus 3:14 "God said to Moses, "I am who I am."^[e] This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I have sent me to you.'"

Question/Discussion:

- ⇒ Why did the response Jesus give "I AM" provoke such a strong reaction among the Jews?