

## COMMUNITY GROUP GUIDE

### 20 Re-Think of Gospel

#### INTRODUCTION | The Truth That Sets Us Free

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In today's bible passage we are confronted with two of the greatest questions of our age and of any age: how can we be free, and how can we know the truth? These are two predominant themes in many books and films today. Jesus' answer to this question is: 1) remain in his words; 2) if we remain in his words, we shall be free from slavery to sin; 3) if we remain in his words, we shall know the truth rather than falsehood.

#### SCRIPTURE | John 8:31-47 (ESV)

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31 So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." 33 They answered him, "We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, 'You will become free'?"

34 Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. 35 The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. 36 So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. 37 I know that you are offspring of Abraham; yet you seek to kill me because my word finds no place in you. 38 I speak of what I have seen with my Father, and you do what you have heard from your father."

39 They answered him, "Abraham is our father." Jesus said to them, "If you were Abraham's children, you would be doing the works Abraham did, 40 but now you seek to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. This is not what Abraham did. 41 You are doing the works your father did." They said to him, "We were not born of sexual immorality. We have one Father—even God." 42 Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me. 43 Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear my word. 44 You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. 45 But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me. 46 Which one of you convicts me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me? 47 Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God."

#### QUESTIONS |

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- 1: In verse 31-32, what is the mark of being Jesus' disciple, and what are the consequences?
- 2: How are we tempted not to remain in Jesus words, and how might we encourage one another to remain in Jesus' words?
- 3: In verses 33-34, in what sense are the Jews, who are listening to Jesus, slaves, and how is this slavery expressed in their actions in 33-43?
- 4: Discuss the ways in which you or people around you experience captivity to sin in your everyday lives, and how is this expressed in people's actions?
- 5: In verses 44 to 47, what is shocking about Jesus' evaluation of the fundamental desires of the Jews who are listening to him?

6: This slavery to sin, and living for false desires is the situation for all of us by nature. Yet, Jesus was different, and offers freedom and truth, through remaining in his words. How has experiencing this truth and freedom for yourself, motivated you to share Jesus' words with others.

## UPCOMING EVENTS | This Week & Next Week

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Lunchtime meeting Marunouchi 10<sup>th</sup> Wed

Lunchtime meeting Otemachi 11<sup>th</sup> Thu

Member Class 14<sup>th</sup> June KDDI HALL 13:30

Worship Location and Time changes 21<sup>st</sup> June Sun 14:00 Hamarikyu Asahi Hall