

### WARM-UP

- When you want to relax or release stress, what do you do?
- Name someone you trust. When did you discover you could trust him or her? How did it make you feel?
- Have you ever felt trapped in a situation and then you found yourself free of it? How did that happen?

**WORD** <sup>31</sup>So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, <sup>32</sup>and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” **JOHN 8:31-32**

Jesus called upon the Jews to believe in Him, or they would die in their sins. Many put their belief in Him that day. However, even if they were freed from slavery to sin by believing in Him, Jesus knew living as free people, not as slaves, would be a journey for them. It would take abiding, growing, and trusting God. In this lesson, we will look at how Christians can live and experience freedom as Jesus' disciples.

## 1 | Jesus' disciples abide in His word.

*So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples . . ." JOHN 8:31*

To abide in God's word is firstly to know it, then to believe in it, and act according to it. Abiding in and obeying His Word are not possible without first believing in and trusting Jesus. Share about a time you acted in faith according to God's word, even when it did not seem to make sense. What happened?

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## 2 | Those who abide in the word will know the truth.

*<sup>31</sup>So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, <sup>32</sup>and you will know the truth . . ." JOHN 8:31-32*

When we believe in and trust Jesus, we can abide in His word by faith. Our assurance from Jesus is that when we act according to His word, we will know the truth. We will not fly blind or act without understanding. Was there a time you acted according to God's word, and it opened your eyes to the truth of your situation? Share your story.

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### 3 | Those who know the truth will experience freedom.

*“. . . and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”*

**JOHN 8:32**

How can we as Jesus' disciples experience freedom? When we believe in Him and abide in His word, Jesus assures us that we will know the truth. Through this truth, we will experience freedom. Why is freedom not possible without knowing the truth? How has knowing the truth set you free?

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#### APPLICATION

- Have you come to a place of believing and trusting in Jesus as your Lord and Savior? Would you like to put your faith in Him today?
- What does it mean for you to abide in God's word? Is there any part of your life that you are not yet living in accordance with His word? What can you do differently beginning this week?
- Do you have family members or friends you need to share God's truth and freedom with? How can you open the conversation with them this week?

