



For the Week of May 27, 2012

Good Questions, Straight Answers:
slave or free?

Life Notes for Families

Introductions

We hope you're having a great time learning about Jesus together as a family. Whether you have lots of family members or just a few spending time together, we pray you're having fun and noticing the difference that living with Jesus - *together* - can make. We all have our own relationships with God, but we also share a relationship with those we love. Thanks for helping grow this important relationship!

John 8:31-47

To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus spoke.

Jesus: *"If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."*

The Jews who had believed: *"We are Abraham's descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?"*

Jesus: *"I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. I know you are Abraham's descendants. Yet you are ready to kill me, because you have no room for my word. I am telling you what I have seen in the Father's presence, and you do what you have heard from your father."*

The Jews who had believed: *"Abraham is our father."*

Jesus: *"If you were Abraham's children, then you would do the things Abraham did. As it is, you are determined to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. Abraham did not do such things. You are doing the things your own father does."*

The Jews who had believed: *"We are not illegitimate children. The only Father we have is God himself."*

Jesus: *"If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and now am here. I have not come on my own; but he sent me. Why is my language not clear to you? Because you are unable to hear what I say. You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. 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. Yet because I tell the truth, you do not believe me! Can any of you prove me guilty of sin? If I am telling the truth, why don't you believe me? He who belongs to God hears what God says. The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to God."*

family faith activity

In this week's story in John, we see Jesus talking with the religious leaders of the time, inviting them to follow his teachings and believe so that they could really be free.

We thought it would be fun to help you see God at work in your family so that you can believe and be set free from all those things that we think we want or need but don't have...all those things that we think other people do better than we can do...all those things that make us feel less valuable to God.

Draw a family time line and literally talk about every way you have seen God work in your family life! You might put this on big posters on a wall so that people can add to the time line throughout the week. Feel free to have individual time lines, too. Watch God at work.

What has the Father been doing in your family all these years?

What has the Father been doing in your specific life for all your years?

Watch how he's been working! Prepare to be amazed.



What is the Father doing right now in your life through the ongoing work of Jesus and the Holy Spirit?

What work might you be missing out on, simply because you're wanting things you might not have at the moment...because you're thinking that something is missing in your life?

Bring your time today to a close, reflecting on God at work...always at work...in your life.