

Facilitator:

1. Open with Prayer
2. Welcome any newcomers
3. Give a five-minute review of the sermon using Peppy's sermon notes.

Facilitator:

Please don't feel you have to cover every question. They become increasingly deeper and more thoughtful toward the end. It may help to highlight questions you want to be sure to cover, depending on the dynamics of your group and the time available. Try to keep your discussion to an hour and a half at the most.

### **CONNECT Group study questions, John 8:30-36**

#### **Title: Steps to Spiritual Freedom**

**Facilitator:** If your group did not meet over the Thanksgiving holiday, include questions from last week for a combined connect group discussion.

**Recap:** At the beginning of John, Chapter 8, Jesus shows compassion toward the woman caught in adultery, and he uses the incident to turn the tables on her accusers. He sets the woman free and exposes the scribes and Pharisees in their sin. Then he presents himself as the Light of the World, the one who would lead them out of the darkness of their sin. But their self-righteous pride keeps them from seeing the light standing right in front of them.

Then verse 30 tells us "...many believed in him."

**Read:** John 8:30-36—As he was saying these things, many believed in him. So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." 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'?" Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

**Question:** At the end of verse 30, Jesus could have done one of three things: 1. continue trying to convince the unbelieving pharisees, 2. address those who believed (which he did), or 3. turned away to confront others who had not yet heard the gospel. Why do you suppose he chose not to spend more time with the unbelieving pharisees? Why did he choose to talk to those who believed his message?

**Question:** When Jesus says, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples...,” what does he mean by “abide”? **Facilitator:** Abide means to remain, continue, stay, to dwell, to continue in a particular condition, attitude, relationship.

**Question:** What does it mean to abide in Jesus’ word? How does this define a disciple?

**Question:** When Jesus said, “...you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free,” those who believed in him asked how they would become free when, as children of Abraham, they had never been enslaved by anyone. Jesus could have reminded them of Egypt and the exodus, or he could have asked what those Roman soldiers were doing in Jerusalem. Instead, he skipped the obvious to zero in on their sin. What specific truth frees us from sin?

**Question:** What is the message Jesus conveys by comparing a slave in the house to a son in the house? If the Son—in this case, Jesus—sets the slave free to remain in the house as a son forever, what’s so special about this freedom that Jesus would call it “free indeed”?

**Question:** How much do you appreciate your freedom as an American? Our political freedom was fought for and paid for in blood. How much more does it mean to you to be free from your bondage to sin, which was also fought for and paid in Jesus’ blood? How would you best use your freedom from sin?