



John 8:39-59 Small Group Discussion Questions

- Someone read John 8:39-59. What seem to be the dominant emotions in this discussion? Why do you think the crowds are feeling this way?
- How does this passage relate to the previous few passages we've covered? What are Jesus and the crowds currently discussing?
- Wesley mentioned that this passage begins by asking us the question: who is our spiritual father? Why does the discussion in verse 39 begin with the topic of fatherhood, do you think?
 - When the crowds say that "Abraham is our father", what do they mean? Why do they say this to Jesus as though it would immediately end the debate?
 - How does their pride in being descendants of Abraham reveal the spiritual state of their hearts? Why does their pride in their physical lineage prevent them from hearing what Jesus has to say?
 - How does Jesus respond to them?
- The crowds reply back that God is their father. Are they right? If not, what is the error in their thinking?
- How does Jesus respond?
 - Why does Jesus tell them that their father is the devil?

- Wesley said that one of the lies of our time is that the devil is not real. What do you know about the devil? What does the Bible say about him?
- What happens when we pretend that satan isn't real, when we allow materialism to make us believe that there is no devil?
- What are some of satan's tactics that we learn about in these verses? What does Jesus say about him?
 - How, then, might we defeat those tactics? If satan is first and foremost a liar, how might we combat his lies?
 - What kinds of lies does satan tell today, do you think?
 - What does it look like to use truth to fight the devil?
- Based on this passage, how do you think that children of God look and act differently from children of the devil?
- Wesley briefly noted the ultimate end of the devil: what will happen to satan at the end of all things? How does this affect how we think about him and fight him?
- The conversation moves on, and we can feel the tension growing. What do the crowds accuse Jesus of next? What does this say about them?
- How does Jesus respond? How does the judgeship of God lead to eternal life for those who follow Him?
 - Wesley spent time discussing death and the fear of death. Do you think that people are afraid of death in our culture? How does that appear? Where do you see that fear in people?
 - How does this fear of death influence people to live? What kinds of things does it make them do?
 - How are we influenced to live if we don't fear death because of Jesus?

- How does this debate come to a crescendo in verses 55-59? What does Jesus reveal about Himself here? Again- why does this make the crowds so angry?
- Why do you think that Jesus chooses this moment to reveal the truth about Himself?
- If you are following Jesus in this story, how do you think you would feel? How would the revelation of Jesus' divinity change things for you?