

Small Group Discussion Guide

(Week of March 9, 2025)

Open your group with a time of sharing and prayer.

I. John chapters 5-8 is referred to by theologians as the Period of Controversy. Here John records numerous run-ins with the Pharisees, primarily over who Jesus claims to be and what he is doing. Read [John 5:8-16](#). Why was it controversial for Jesus to heal people on the Sabbath? Was Jesus breaking the Jewish Sabbath law? Note [Matthew 12:1-14](#).

II. Now read [John 5:17-18](#). How did Jesus defend his actions? How did the Jews understand his claims? In what sense was God Jesus' true Father? Note [Luke 1:31-17](#). Explain your answers. Is he in fact equal with God?

III. Read [John 5:19-23](#). Three times in this section Jesus says, I tell you the truth (v. 19, 24, 25). Why do you suppose he uses this phrase here? Doesn't he always speak the truth?

Notice how Jesus aligns himself with God the Father in this section. Summarize in your own words verses 19-23. What does it mean to honor the son just as we honor the Father?

IV. Finally, read [John 5:24-29](#). According to verse 24, how does someone receive eternal life? Can it be that simple? Explain your answers.

When will the dead actually hear the voice of the son of God and live? Jesus will judge the living and the dead because he is "the Son of Man". Explain that term. Note [Daniel 7:13-14](#), [Matthew 26:62-68](#). What does he mean by those who have done good and evil in verse 29? I thought we were saved by faith not by works ([Ephesians 2:8](#)). Note [John 6:28-29](#).

Close your time in prayer.

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East Gilead

Wednesdays at 3:30 p.m.
Contact: Greg Maertin
419.346.3659

Kinderhook

Thursdays at 6:00 pm
Contact: Pastor Jim
517.756.8001



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