

The Gospel of John
John 7:53–8:59

Memory Verse: *“So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed”* (John 8:36 NIV).

Background Helps:

John 8 appears to be a continuation of Jesus’ visit to Jerusalem during the Feast of Tabernacles or Booths (see last week’s forecast). The temple precincts were brightly illuminated during the Feast, and Jesus’ stirring claim in John 8:12 may be a reflection of that fact.

Most scholars do not believe that the story in John 7:53–8:11, the incident of the woman caught in adultery, was originally a part of John’s Gospel (see notes in a study Bible or commentary on John). However, it was probably an authentic incident in our Lord’s ministry that was inserted later at this point into the Gospel. It certainly has valuable teaching on the themes of judging, forgiveness, and repentance.


Lesson Helps:


Here are several alternative aims and themes that you could consider using from John 8:

1. John 7:53–8:11: My students will learn about the story of the woman caught in adultery, so that they will (1) beware of judging others harshly and hypocritically and/or (2) repent of their own sin and receive Christ’s forgiveness. If you emphasize the theme of judging, combine your study of this incident with Jesus’ teaching in Matthew 7:1-5. In fact, you could use this story as a case study to launch into an exploration of the Bible’s teaching on judging—a much more complex issue than most realize.
2. John 8:21-30, 56-59: My students will learn about who Jesus really is, so that they will believe that he is God. Notice the statements of Jesus in John 8:24, 28, and 58 where he identifies himself with the “I am” statement of God himself in Exodus 3:14.
3. John 8:31-36: My students will learn Jesus’ teaching about freedom from slavery to sin, so that, by faith, they will be set free from sin in their own lives. The memory verse fits especially with this aim.
4. John 8:31-47: My students will learn Jesus’ teaching about fatherhood, so that they will make sure that God is their Father.

See the daily Bible reading schedule for possible discussion questions to use in class. Also, you could consider using the same aim and plan as last week’s lesson (see previous forecast), covering all of John 8:12-59.

Home Assignment:

 Read: John 9

 Memorize: John 8:12

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