

# “Two Families/Two Humanities”

**John 8:42-59**

8/29/21

## Discussion Guide

Put yourself in the crowd as Jesus spoke these words. Share what you hear, how you would have responded to Jesus and what questions would you have for him.

*“If God were your Father, you would love me, for I have come here from God. I have not come on my own; God sent me. <sup>43</sup> Why is my language not clear to you? Because you are unable to hear what I say. <sup>44</sup> You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father’s desires. 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. <sup>45</sup> Yet because I tell the truth, you do not believe me! <sup>46</sup> Can any of you prove me guilty of sin? If I am telling the truth, why don’t you believe me? <sup>47</sup> Whoever belongs to God hears what God says. The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to God.”*

*<sup>48</sup> The Jews answered him, “Aren’t we right in saying that you are a Samaritan and demon-possessed?”*

*<sup>49</sup> “I am not possessed by a demon,” said Jesus, “but I honor my Father and you dishonor me. <sup>50</sup> I am not seeking glory for myself; but there is one who seeks it, and he is the judge. <sup>51</sup> Very truly I tell you, whoever obeys my word will never see death.”*

*<sup>52</sup> At this they exclaimed, “Now we know that you are demon-possessed! Abraham died and so did the prophets, yet you say that whoever obeys your word will never taste death. <sup>53</sup> Are you greater than our father Abraham? He died, and so did the prophets. Who do you think you are?”*

*<sup>54</sup> Jesus replied, “If I glorify myself, my glory means nothing. My Father, whom you claim as your God, is the one who glorifies me. <sup>55</sup> Though you do not know him, I know him. If I said I did not, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and obey his word. <sup>56</sup> Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad.”*

*<sup>57</sup> “You are not yet fifty years old,” they said to him, “and you have seen Abraham!”*

*<sup>58</sup> “Very truly I tell you,” Jesus answered, “before Abraham was born, I am!” <sup>59</sup> At this, they picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus hid himself, slipping away from the temple grounds. John 8:42-59*

1. Our culture has an interesting relationship with the topic of evil, the demonic, and Satan. Horror and the paranormal are popular movie genres. At the same time when it comes to identifying the root causes of personal and societal problems people completely leave out the spiritual realm and spiritual resources. Why is that? Why do we have this love/hate, contradictory relationship with the spiritual realm?

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2. How comfortable are you with talking about God, Satan, the Holy Spirit, demonic spirits, heaven, hell, good and evil? Are there terms or phrases you'd rather not use? For instance, would you rather talk about evil or are you comfortable referring to a personal, literal Devil?
3. React to the quote by C.S. Lewis...*"When it comes to the Devil, you can believe in him too much and too little."*
4. What has been your experience with demonic forces? Do you believe there is a literal, personal Devil that rules the earth or do you believe in the existence of a general evil force working in the world, or do you believe in neither or both?
5. Jesus breaks the world down into two classifications based on theology. Some people find the classifications bigoted or divisive when in actuality the classification helps dismantle divisiveness and bigotry. How is that so or do you disagree and believe the classifications are bigoted and divisive?
6. Pastor Richard talked about the group of fundamentalists who were on a TV talk show and their interaction with the crowd. They did not represent Christianity very well. Share an instance when you were embarrassed by how a believer, perhaps even a Pastor, represented the faith to a nonbeliever(s). What would you have done differently? What does our faith say concerning our relationship with unbelievers?
7. Break the group up into small groups and have each look up a different term(s) used in the Bible to refer to Satan and the demonic. See what Scripture has to say about the powers they have or do not have. Then, contrast what Scripture says with how Satan and the demonic are portrayed.

Other terms used to describe the Devil: father of lies, a roaring lion, prince of this world, adversary, enemy, evil spirit, Lucifer, serpent, tempter, accuser, beast, Beelzebub,, great dragon, murderer from the beginning, prince of the power of the air, son of perdition, and spirit of antichrist.

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You never knew there were so many terms used to refer to the Devil/evil did you?

8. Christians and our culture often make the same mistake and that is by oversimplifying our problems and their remedy. Some Christians look to only the spiritual realm while the world looks to the physical realm. Share how you have seen this played out. Share a habit, problem, hang-up, or hurt that you carried around with you and the resources you used to overcome it. Did you use resources from both the human and supernatural realm?

9. Pastor Richard shared two resources our faith gives us to help us in life: truth/the Bible, and the Holy Spirit(Jesus' DNA). What are other resources we have that our faith provides? (See Ephesians 6 and the teaching on the armor of God and 2 Corinthians 10:3-5)

10. Share a falsehood you believed and how it affected your life. What did you do to get rid of the lie and undo its negative effects on your life?

11. Read and react to another C.S. Lewis quote: *"It is a serious thing to live in a society of possible gods and goddesses, to remember that the dullest most uninteresting person you can talk to may one day be a creature which, if you saw it now, you would be strongly tempted to worship, or else a horror and a corruption such as you now meet, if at all, only in a nightmare."* C.S. Lewis

12. Final thoughts or comments.