

In the Gospel of John 8:39–47, Jesus is speaking to a group of Jews during a tense debate in Jerusalem following His teaching at the Feast of Tabernacles. Many of the religious leaders trusted in their physical descent from Abraham as proof of their relationship with God. Jesus challenges this belief by teaching that true children of Abraham imitate Abraham's faith and obedience. Their rejection of Jesus and desire to kill Him revealed a different spiritual allegiance. Jesus contrasts two spiritual families: the children of God, who love and receive the truth, and the children of the devil, characterized by lies and unbelief. The passage emphasizes that spiritual identity is not based on ancestry or religion alone, but on responding to Jesus and obeying God's truth.

What are some traits people usually inherit from their family—physically, emotionally, or spiritually?

Read John 8:39-47

1. In v39-40, the Jews claimed Abraham as their father. According to Jesus, what would the true children of Abraham do differently? Genesis 15:6; Romans 4:11–12; Galatians 3:7
2. Why does Jesus say their desire to kill Him proves they are not acting like Abraham?
3. V41-42. The people claimed God as their Father. What evidence does Jesus give that disproves their claim? 1 John 5:1; John 14:23–24
4. What does genuine love for Jesus look like in a Christian's life? How do a person's words, actions, and responses to truth reveal their spiritual condition? Luke 6:43–45; James 3:10–12.
5. V44. What characteristics of the devil does Jesus describe in this verse? A leader on an Alpha course once confessed, 'I don't believe in the Devil.' how would you respond?
6. What do you think are the most common lies and deception that influence people spiritually today? Is it any different for those who are Christians compared to non-Christians?
7. V44-45. Why do you think people often resist or reject the truth? 2 Thessalonians 2:10–12; Romans 1:18. How has truth been undermined in our society today?
8. V46. What challenge does Jesus give His listeners concerning sin and truth?
9. V46-47. What connection does Jesus make between rejecting truth and rejecting God?
10. What can help us this week to not rely on just our doing, our heritage or other aspects that can create a false identity in Christ? Read Ephesians 2:8–9, Galatians 2:20 and Philippians 3:4-9.

Prayer Points

Pray for the connect groups, the leaders and those who are looking to join a group. Pray for the blessing of community and growth together as people meet. Pray for the leaders as they prepare and guide the group.

Thank God for economic and church growth in Rwanda. Pray for the regional security-related tensions and for improved relations with neighbouring countries.

Sermon Notes

F_____ R_____

The Danger of S_____ D_____

The H_____ H_____

W_____ J_____ O_____

A N_____ F_____

If you would like to join a Connect Group, please contact the church office 01424 730001



BIBLE STUDY

May 17th 2026

Two Families

John 8:39-41

In the Gospel of John, Jesus progressively reveals His divine identity while confronting deep unbelief. He is presented as the light who exposes spiritual darkness, showing that true blindness is not physical but a refusal to recognise truth. As the Good Shepherd, He embodies sacrificial love, intimate care, and secure belonging for His people. This part of the gospel also emphasises faith as trust in His person rather than mere signs. These passages highlight themes of revelation, belief versus rejection, abundant life, and the growing tension between divine truth and human resistance.