



John 8:37-59 – Like Father, Like Son

Small Group Questions

Pray for God's help as you turn to look at His word, to understand and respond rightly to what you'll see. Read through the passage and then discuss these questions together.

1. Who is the one person (or the few people) who have most made you the person you are today? (If it's your parents, can you think of anyone else? If not, that's fine!)

In these verses all the talk about 'fathers' is not referring to biological fathers, but to who has most made the crowd/Jesus the people they are, who they are most aligned with, shaped by and loyal to.

2. The crowd Jesus is speaking with claim (i) first Abraham and (ii) second God as their father. In each case, how does Jesus refute those claims?
3. How does vv54-56 add to the picture of how Abraham and God relate to Jesus?
4. How do verses 37, 43, 47 and 51 help us further understand how a true child of God will respond to his word? (Note v43 literally reads, "you are unable to hear my word".)

True children of God love and listen to Jesus.

5. What does it mean to 'love Jesus' in the way Abraham did (v56)?
6. How do we cultivate *that kind* of love / rejoicing in Jesus? What would be a good next step for you to take (or continue) to cultivate love for Jesus?
7. What does it mean to 'have room' (v37) for Jesus' word? Does that simply mean 'room in my diary' or do you think it's something more? Similarly, what does it mean to 'be able to hear' his words?
8. In these senses, do you 'have room for', are you 'able to hear' and do you obey his word?
9. How would you help apply these verses to:
 - (a) A church family member who is struggling, feels spiritually weak and worried about whether all this means they're not a true child of God?
 - (b) A church family member who shows no such concerns about their spiritual health and also shows little sign of God's word 'getting through' to them or affecting their life?



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Parish Church

9 Mar 2025

Respond to God's word in prayer

Share any answers to prayer you've seen since you last met

Take some time to pray for each other

*Our desire for small groups is that they would help us be a "people who are in the process of having their lives turned inside out and upside down by the progressive work of transforming grace."
(Taken from 'Lead' by Paul Tripp, p42)*