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**Chapter 8 Study Guide: Jesus Sends His Disciples Out**

**Icebreaker:** Since we’ve been talking about Jesus’ travels through His ministry, we’re going to discuss our own travels.What is the most interesting place you have ever traveled and why?

1. Is there anything in this week’s reading or teaching you want to discuss?
2. Chapter 8 begins with a debate between the crowds and religious authorities about who Jesus is. In response, Jesus makes an absolute statement: “If anyone wants to do God’s will, he will know about my teaching (pg. 133).” How would people in today’s world respond to a statement like this? How do you respond to it?
3. Jesus invites anyone who is spiritually thirsty to come to Him and promises to give the gift of God’s Spirit to them (pg. 135). We’ll learn in chapter 11 that the promise of God’s Spirit isn’t actually fulfilled until Jesus’ death, resurrection, and ascension. Acts 2:38-39 says this promise is fulfilled at the believer’s baptism and is available for every one in every generation who will believe in Jesus.
   1. Why do you think we need the Holy Spirit in order to have contentment and satisfaction in life?
   2. How have you found that Jesus has satisfied your thirst and longings in life?
4. According to the law, the woman caught in adultery should die for her sin (pg. 136). Even though the religious leaders pretend to be defending God’s holiness, what is their true motivation? How do you think the woman felt about being used by these men in order to get to Jesus? How do you think she felt about the way Jesus defended her?
5. What condition does Jesus give for being a real disciple and knowing the truth (pg. 138)?
6. What does Jesus mean by “everyone who practices sin is a slave of sin?” How does Jesus say we are able to be free from slavery to sin (pg. 138)?
7. What was Jesus really saying on pg. 140 when he told the Judeans, “Before Abraham came into existence, I am!”? (See Exodus 3:14) Why did they try to kill Him after He said this?
8. Jesus’ miracle of healing the man born blind created quite a stir and prompted many questions (pg. 140-143).
   1. Why do you think the disciples asked Jesus about the connection between sin and this man’s blindness? How does Jesus’ answer instruct us about the cause of suffering and the opportunity it presents?
   2. How do you respond to the healed man’s answer to the Pharisees: “I do know one thing – although I was blind, now I can see”?
   3. What do you think Jesus meant by saying He came so that those who are blind may see and those who can see may become blind?
   4. How would you describe “spiritual blindness”?
9. In what way is Jesus like a shepherd? A gate (pg. 143-144)?
10. Jesus refers to the “Sign of Jonah” (pg. 151) and is referring to His resurrection. Why does Jesus say this will be the only sign this generation needs?
11. What does it mean to be “overly concerned” about what you will eat, drink or wear (pg. 155)? How can you learn to “not worry about such things?” (See also Psalms 55:22; Philippians 4:4-7; 1 Peter 5:7)
12. Jesus says, “Whoever exalts himself will be humbled and whoever humbles himself will be exalted (pg. 163).” What does this mean in everyday life? How can we learn to be more humble?