

## The Gospel According to John 8:12 – 30

New American Standard Version

1 Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, “I am the Light of the  
2 world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will  
3 have the Light of life.” So the Pharisees said to Him, “You are  
4 testifying about Yourself; Your testimony is not true.” Jesus  
5 answered and said to them, “Even if I testify about Myself, My  
6 testimony is true, for I know where I came from and where I am  
7 going; but you do not know where I come from or where I am  
8 going. You judge according to the flesh; I am not judging anyone.  
9 But even if I do judge, My judgment is true; for I am not alone *in*  
10 *it*, but I and the Father who sent Me. Even in your law it has been  
11 written that the testimony of two men is true. I am He who  
12 testifies about Myself, and the Father who sent Me testifies about  
13 Me.” So they were saying to Him, “Where is Your Father?” Jesus  
14 answered, “You know neither Me nor My Father; if you knew Me,  
15 you would know My Father also.” These words He spoke in the  
16 treasury, as He taught in the temple; and no one seized Him,  
17 because His hour had not yet come. Then He said again to them,  
18 “I go away, and you will seek Me, and will die in your sin; where I  
19 am going, you cannot come.” So the Jews were saying, “Surely  
20 He will not kill Himself, will He, since He says, ‘Where I am  
21 going, you cannot come?’” And He was saying to them, “You are  
22 from below, I am from above; you are of this world, I am not of  
23 this world. Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins;  
24 for unless you believe that I am *He*, you will die in your sins.” So  
25 they were saying to Him, “Who are You?” Jesus said to them,  
26 “What have I been saying to you *from* the beginning? I have  
27 many things to speak and to judge concerning you, but He who  
28 sent Me is true; and the things which I heard from Him, these I  
29 speak to the world.” They did not realize that He had been  
30 speaking to them about the Father. So Jesus said, “When you lift  
31 up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am *He*, and I do  
32 nothing on My own initiative, but I speak these things as the  
33 Father taught Me. And He who sent Me is with Me; He has not  
34 left Me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to Him.”  
35 As He spoke these things, many came to believe in Him.

*Use the suggestions on the back page as  
a starting point for your own  
**Observation, Interpretation, and  
Application.***

## Inductive Bible Study

(A few general ideas)

### Observation

(What does it say?)

What facts do you **observe** about the passage (repetition, comparisons, contrasts, cause and effect, unusual words, etc.)? Mark the passage (underline, circles, etc.) to help bring out the writer's thought process.

- Who are the people involved?
- What is the action taking place?
- What type of literature is the passage (poetry, history, didactic, etc.)?
- What details are included or left out?
- Are there any unusual words used?
- Is there any symbolic or figurative language used?
- What is the grammar of the passage (pronouns, prepositions, verb tenses)?
- Is there any repetition of words or ideas?
- Are there comparisons or contrasts?
- Are there indications of cause and effect?
- Are there indications of purpose (“in order that...”)?
- Are there conclusions (“Therefore...”)?
- Does the passage contain any explanations?
- Does the passage logically break into sections?
- How would you summarize the passage?
- What would be a good “headline” for the passage?

### Interpretation

(What does it mean?)

What questions come to mind about the facts of the passage that would help you **interpret** the writer's meaning?

- How would the original readers have understood the passage?
- What is the main emphasis?
- Why does the writer use repetition, or contrast, or unusual words?
- What does the grammar or structure of the passage reveal about the writer's thought pattern?
- Is there a logical sequence in the passage?
- How are different ideas in the passage connected?
- Are there any new ideas or concepts presented?
- Are there difficulties in the passage?

### Application

(What does it mean for me?)

How does the writer's meaning relate to your life? What specific application might the Holy Spirit want to show you?

- Is there a command to obey?
- Is there a promise to be thankful for?
- Is there an attribute of God to worship?
- Is there an example to follow?

**Lord, thou hast given me a determination  
to take up no principle at second-hand;  
but to search for everything at the pure  
fountain of thy word.  
– Andrew Fuller (1754 – 1815)**

## The Gospel According to John 8:11 – 30 (outline)

<p>1 <sup>12</sup> Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying,  2     “I am the Light of the world;  3     he who follows Me  4     will not walk in the darkness,  5     but will have the Light of life.”  6 <sup>13</sup> So the Pharisees said to Him,  7     “You are testifying about Yourself;  8     Your testimony is not true.”  9 <sup>14</sup> Jesus answered and said to them,  10    “Even if I testify about Myself,  11    My testimony is true,  12       for I know where I came from  13       and where I am going;  14       but you do not know where I come from  15       or where I am going.  16 <sup>15</sup> You judge according to the flesh;  17 I am not judging anyone.  18       <sup>16</sup> But even if I do judge,  19           My judgment is true;  20           for I am not alone <i>in it</i>,  21           but I and the Father who sent Me.  22       <sup>17</sup> Even in your law it has been written  23           that the testimony of two men is true.  24       <sup>18</sup> I am He who testifies about Myself,  25           and the Father who sent Me  26           testifies about Me.”  27 <sup>19</sup> So they were saying to Him,  28     “Where is Your Father?”  29 Jesus answered,  30     “You know neither Me  31     nor My Father;  32     if you knew Me,  33     you would know My Father also.”  34 <sup>20</sup> These words He spoke in the treasury,  35     as He taught in the temple;  36     and no one seized Him,  37     because His hour had not yet come.  38 <sup>21</sup> Then He said again to them,  39     “I go away,  40     and you will seek Me,  41     and will die in your sin;  42     where I am going,  43     you cannot come.”  44 <sup>22</sup> So the Jews were saying,</p>	<p>45     “Surely He will not kill Himself,  46     will He,  47     since He says,  48       ‘Where I am going, you cannot  49       come?’”  50 <sup>23</sup> And He was saying to them,  51     “You are from below,  52     I am from above;  53     you are of this world,  54     I am not of this world.  55 <sup>24</sup> Therefore I said to you that  56     you will die in your sins;  57     for unless you believe  58     that I am <i>He</i>,  59     you will die in your sins.”  60 <sup>25</sup> So they were saying to Him,  61     “Who are You?”  62 Jesus said to them,  63     “What have I been saying to you  64       <i>from the beginning?</i>  65 <sup>26</sup> I have many things  66     to speak  67     and to judge  68       concerning you,  69     but He who sent Me is true;  70     and the things which I heard from Him,  71     these I speak to the world.”  72 <sup>27</sup> They did not realize  73     that He had been speaking to them  74     about the Father.  75 <sup>28</sup> So Jesus said,  76     “When you lift up the Son of Man,  77     then you will know  78       that I am <i>He</i>,  79       and I do nothing on My own initiative,  80       but I speak these things  81       as the Father taught Me.  82 <sup>29</sup> And He who sent Me  83     is with Me;  84     He has not left Me alone,  85     for I always do the things  86       that are pleasing to Him.”  87 <sup>30</sup> As He spoke these things,  88     many came to believe in Him.</p>
--	---

August 30, 2015

**Observation** – What does it say?      **Interpretation** – What does it mean?      **Application** – What does it mean for me?

*Does the outlined text help you follow the interaction between Jesus and the Pharisees?*

*As usual, mark the passage (underline, circles, etc.) to help bring out the conversation's line of reasoning.*

*What parts of John's narrative seem clearer in this outline form?*

*What changes would you make to this suggested outline?*

*DIY on other passages (or this one):*

1. **Copy** the text from BibleGateway.com, or BibleHub.com, etc.
2. **Paste** into your word processor (even NotePad)
3. Use the **indent or tab** functions to arrange the text
4. **Experiment!** What outline of the text makes the most sense and helps you see what the writer is saying? As you read and re-read the text in the outline, tweak the changes to keep improving your understanding.