

28.67aa At the Feast of Booths—Woman in Adultery; Light of the World; Fatherhood of Abraham; “I Am” (John 8:1–59)

✓ “Check” it out; opinion, inference, supposed conversation, or fact one can verify follows

[. . .] indicates a remark to the teacher that usually should not be read. It also indicates answers to questions.

Visuals and Tools:

- Pictures and other visuals found at the end of this lesson. Please give credit to the sources of pictures.
- Check “Activities” and “Handwork” found below for additional materials.

Bible Time Tips and Terms to Teach: Vocabulary words are enlarged for flashcards at the end of this lesson. Print, cut out, and glue to card stock, or just print on colorful cardstock.

- *adultery*: a married person’s violating his or her marriage vows [For younger students the teacher may choose not to use this term at all.]
- *scribes and Pharisees*: religious men who hated and wanted to do away with Jesus
- *testimony*: firsthand verification of a fact (<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/testimony>)
- “*I Am*”: Jehovah God (see Exodus 3:14)

Scripture Passage (NASV):

John 8:1 But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. 2 Early in the morning He came again into the temple, and all the people were coming to Him; and He sat down and *began* to teach them. 3 The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman caught in adultery, and having set her in the center *of the court*, 4 they said to Him, “Teacher, this woman has been caught in adultery, in the very act. 5 Now in the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women; what then do You say?” 6 They were saying this, testing Him, so that they might have grounds for accusing Him. But Jesus stooped down and with His finger wrote on the ground. 7 But when they persisted in asking Him, He straightened up, and said to them, “He who is without sin among you, let him *be the* first to throw a stone at her.” 8 Again He stooped down and wrote on the ground. 9 When they heard it, they *began* to go out one by one, beginning with the older ones, and He was left alone, and the woman, where she was, in the center *of the court*. 10 Straightening up, Jesus said to her, “Woman, where are they? Did no one condemn you?” 11 She said, “No one, Lord.” And Jesus said, “I do not condemn you, either. Go. From now on sin no more.”]

12 Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, “I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life.” 13 So the Pharisees said to Him, “You are testifying about Yourself; Your testimony is not true.” 14 Jesus answered and said to them, “Even if I testify about Myself, My testimony is true, for I know where I came from and where I am going; but you do not know where I come from or where I am going. 15 You judge according to the flesh; I am not judging anyone. 16 But even if I do judge, My judgment is true; for I am not alone *in it*, but I and the Father who sent Me. 17 Even in your law it has been written that the testimony of two men is true. 18 I am He who testifies about Myself, and the Father who sent Me testifies about Me.” 19 So they were saying to Him, “Where is Your Father?” Jesus answered, “You know neither Me nor My Father; if you knew Me, you would know My Father also.” 20 These words He spoke in the treasury,* as He taught in the temple; and no one seized Him, because His hour had not yet come.

21 Then He said again to them, “I go away, and you will seek Me, and will die in your sin; where I am going, you cannot come.” 22 So the Jews were saying, “Surely He will not kill Himself, will He, since He says, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come?’” 23 And He was saying to them, “You are from below, I am from above; you are of this world, I am not of this world. 24 Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am *He*, you will die in your sins.” 25 So they were saying to Him, “Who are You?” Jesus said to them, “What have I been saying to you *from* the beginning? 26 I have many things to speak and to judge concerning you, but He who sent Me is true; and the things which I heard from Him, these I speak to the world.” 27 They did not realize that He had been speaking to them about the Father. 28 So Jesus said, “When

you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am *He*, and I do nothing on My own initiative, but I speak these things as the Father taught Me. 29 And He who sent Me is with Me; He has not left Me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to Him.” 30 As He spoke these things, many came to believe in Him.

31 So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, “If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” 33 They answered Him, “We are Abraham’s descendants and have never yet been enslaved to anyone; how is it that You say, ‘You will become free’?”

34 Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin. 35 The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son does remain forever. 36 So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed. 37 I know that you are Abraham’s descendants; yet you seek to kill Me, because My word has no place in you. 38 I speak the things which I have seen with My Father; therefore you also do the things which you heard from *your* father.”

39 They answered and said to Him, “Abraham is our father.” Jesus said to them, “If you are Abraham’s children, do the deeds of Abraham. 40 But as it is, you are seeking to kill Me, a man who has told you the truth, which I heard from God; this Abraham did not do. 41 You are doing the deeds of your father.” They said to Him, “We were not born of fornication; we have one Father: God.” 42 Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and have come from God, for I have not even come on My own initiative, but He sent Me. 43 Why do you not understand what I am saying? *It is* because you cannot hear My word. 44 You are of *your* father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *nature*, for he is a liar and the father of lies. 45 But because I speak the truth, you do not believe Me. 46 Which one of you convicts Me of sin? If I speak truth, why do you not believe Me? 47 He who is of God hears the words of God; for this reason you do not hear *them*, because you are not of God.”

48 The Jews answered and said to Him, “Do we not say rightly that You are a Samaritan and have a demon?” 49 Jesus answered, “I do not have a demon; but I honor My Father, and you dishonor Me. 50 But I do not seek My glory; there is One who seeks and judges. 51 Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps My word he will never see death.” 52 The Jews said to Him, “Now we know that You have a demon. Abraham died, and the prophets *also*; and You say, ‘If anyone keeps My word, he will never taste of death.’ 53 Surely You are not greater than our father Abraham, who died? The prophets died too; whom do You make Yourself out *to be*?” 54 Jesus answered, “If I glorify Myself, My glory is nothing; it is My Father who glorifies Me, of whom you say, ‘He is our God’; 55 and you have not come to know Him, but I know Him; and if I say that I do not know Him, I will be a liar like you, but I do know Him and keep His word. 56 Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw *it* and was glad.” 57 So the Jews said to Him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?” 58 Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am.” 59 Therefore they picked up stones to throw at Him, but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple.

Introduction/Review:

Hatred against Jesus was strong enough for some to do away with Him, but His “hour had not yet come”—it was not quite time for His death and resurrection.

At the Feast of Booths, Jesus taught openly at the Temple. People divided in their opinion of Him contended over one point: From where did Jesus come? Jesus had made it abundantly clear that He had come from “above,” from “the Father.”

On the last day of the feast at the time when water was poured out with great ceremony, Jesus stood up and cried out, “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me will have a fountain of living water flowing from his inmost being.”

After the day was over, everyone went to his own home, but Jesus went to the Mount of Olives.

Story:

Today's passage will be divided into four sections.

Section 1: The Woman Caught in Adultery

Early the next morning Jesus came from the Mount of Olives (✓where He had spent the night) and went again into the temple court. Lots of people came to hear Him; so He sat down and began to teach. But the scribes and the Pharisees interrupted with another item for His attention. They brought a woman caught in adultery. [Teacher, for younger students say, "Caught in a terrible sin."] They took this woman, set her in the center of the crowd, and said to Him, "Teacher, this woman has been caught in adultery [in a grievous sin]. Now, in the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women; what do You say?"

Remember, these are scribes and Pharisees. We have seen them many times in our stories of Jesus. They opposed Jesus, the Son of God, at every turn and were within months of slaying Him. Why do you suppose they brought this tricky question to Jesus? I will tell you what the Bible states: "They were saying this, testing Him, so that they might have grounds for accusing Him." In other words, they were trying to get Jesus to say something that sounded as if it was contrary to what the Law of the Old Testament taught so that they could arrest Him.

Jesus didn't answer at all. He simply bent down and wrote something with his finger in the dirt. The Bible doesn't tell us what He wrote; so people throughout the ages have wondered and speculated about what it was. They have also wondered how much the writing affected the events that followed.

Well, after the accusers had pestered Jesus, asking again and again what He would do, Jesus straightened up and said to them, "He who is without sin among you, let him be the first to throw a stone at her." What did He say? ["If there is someone here without sin, he can be the first to throw a stone at her."] Then He stooped down again to write more on the ground.

Do you suppose the chief scribe stepped up, picked up a stone, and threw it? Oh, no. ✓Who could even think he was without sin?! Not even one of those religious, self-righteous men stepped up. Instead, they left, one by one, starting with the oldest and ending with the youngest.

Finally, just Jesus and the woman were left. Jesus stood up again and asked, "Woman, where are they? Did anyone condemn you?"

She answered, "No one, Lord."

Jesus responded, "I do not condemn you, either. Go. From now on sin no more."

Now, was Jesus lightly passing off this woman's sin, saying it was okay for this woman just to leave so that she could continue to live as she had before? No. As God, Jesus knew her heart; as God, He could forgive sins. He forgave but also commanded, "Go and sin no more." ✓I believe the woman did not sin in this way again.

Section 2: Light of the World

Then Jesus made a remarkable statement: "I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life."

Talk about words to prove Jesus is God; here they are! Who else could say he is the Light of the world? Who could give the Light of life to His followers? Only Jesus!

The Pharisees heard this statement and repudiated it, saying to Him, "You are testifying about Yourself; Your testimony is not true." In other words, "You are a liar! You are speaking with no one to verify that what you say is true."

But Jesus answered, "Even if I testify about Myself, My testimony is true; for I am not alone in it because the Father who sent Me also testifies. In your law it is written that the testimony of two men is true. I testify about Myself, and the Father who sent Me testifies about Me. That's two witnesses."

The Pharisees continued to challenge everything Jesus claimed. We will not take time to process all of their arguments. In fact, we don't have time in this lesson even to tell everything Jesus said, but we will quote several of His statements. Here they are:

- “If you knew Me, you would know My Father also.”
- “I go away, and you will seek Me and will die in your sin.”
- “Where I am going you cannot come.” (This statement and the previous one caused the Jews to wonder if Jesus would commit suicide.)
- “You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world.
- “Unless you believe that I am He [the Messiah], you will die in your sins.”
- “I have many things to speak and to judge concerning you.”
- “He who sent Me is true; and the things which I heard from Him, these I speak to the world.”
- “When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am.” (Notice the “I am.”)
- “I do nothing on My own initiative, but I speak these things as the Father taught Me.”
- “He who sent Me is with Me. He has not left Me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to Him.”

What marvelous words—more evidence of Jesus' deity!

Section 3: The Fatherhood of Abraham

We interrupt this list of Jesus' sayings for a moment to return to the Pharisees' objections. Jesus gave them an opening, ✓as usual, by saying, “I know that you are Abraham's descendants; yet you seek to kill Me because My word has no place in you. I speak the things which I have seen with My Father. You also do the things which you heard from your father.”

Hmm. What did Jesus mean by “your father”? We will soon find out. In the meantime the Pharisees answered, “Abraham is our father.”

Well, Jesus had a response to this assertion: “If you are Abraham's children, do the deeds of Abraham. As it is, you are seeking to kill Me, a man who has told you the truth, which I heard from God. Abraham would not have killed me. You are doing the deeds of your father.”

The Pharisees intensified their boast: “We have one Father: God.”

Oh, really?! Listen to Jesus' response: “If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I have come from God. I have not even come on My own initiative, but He sent Me. Why do you not understand what I am saying? It is because you cannot hear My word.”

Now listen to Jesus' power punch: “You are of your father the devil.”

What a blow! Was it true? If Jesus said it, we know it is true, for He knows all things and tells the truth.

He continued, “You want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning.” Why does Jesus make this point? Because these very people were seeking to murder Him!

Jesus was not finished. “The devil does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies.” All of these statements about the devil are true; we can learn a lot about him from Jesus here. We can also learn the true nature of these Pharisees.

Section Four: The “I Am”

Then Jesus contrasted His own deity and truthfulness with the Pharisees' lost spiritual existence as evidenced in their refusal to believe Him: "Because I speak the truth, you do not believe Me. Which one of you convicts Me of sin? If I speak truth, why do you not believe Me? If someone is of God, he hears the words of God. You do not hear them because you are not of God."

Those were fighting words, and the Jews lashed back with their most poisonous insults: "You are a Samaritan and have a demon!"

Jesus answered, "I do not have a demon. Rather, I honor My Father, but you dishonor Me. Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps My word, he will never see death."

Oh, that was powerful! The Jews reacted by increasing their venom: "Now we know that You have a demon. 'Never see death?!' Abraham and the prophets kept God's words, but they died. How can You say, 'If anyone keeps My word, he will never taste of death'? Surely You are not greater than our father Abraham, who died even though he kept God's word? Whom do You make Yourself out to be?"

What a question! Jesus had made it abundantly clear Who He is—saying He was the Light of the world, speaking of God's being His Father, saying He was sent from above, and more. Yet the Jews refused to believe His truthful claims.

Jesus continued to speak very clearly of His relationship to the Father: "My Father glorifies Me, of whom you say, 'He is our God.' You have not come to know Him, but I know Him and keep His word. Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day; he saw it and was glad."

The Jews retorted, "What?! You aren't even fifty years old yet; have You seen Abraham?"

If Jesus' previous comments were not explosive enough, His next one ignited all the rage of the Jews. Listen to Jesus' answer: "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am." Jesus was perfectly clear: His "I Am" declared He is God.

The Jews understood the claim and thought it to be the ultimate blasphemy. "I Am" claimed by anyone was a capital offense; so they picked up stones to throw at Him. Would Jesus be killed by stoning? No, for it was not yet His time. He hid Himself and went out of the temple unhurt.

Some believed

As Jesus asserted His deity in all this disputation, some people believed on Him. If you have trusted Jesus Christ as your Saviour, the things Jesus said of those believers can also be said of you:

- "He who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life" (John 8:12).
- "If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free" (John 8:31, 32, 36).
- "If God [is] your Father, you . . . love Me" (John 8:42).
- "He who is of God hears the words of God" (John 8:47).
- "If anyone keeps My word he will never see death" (John 8:51). We may die physically but not spiritually.

What a wonderful salvation! What a wonderful Saviour!

*The treasury of the Temple was "the place where the thirteen chests stood, into which the people put their voluntary contributions for the sacrifices, and service of the temple . . . a very public place" (<https://www.biblestudytools.com/commentaries/gills-exposition-of-the-bible/john-8-20.html>).

Lessons from this lesson:

- Jesus is God:

He said, “I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me . . . will have the Light of life” (John 18:12).
 He said the Father sent Him and testified about Him (John 8:16, 18).
 He said to know Him was to know the Father (John 8:19).
 He said He was from above and not of this world (John 8:23).
 He said, “Unless you believe that I am, you will die in your sins” (John 8:24).
 He prophesied, “When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am” (John 8:28).
 He said, “I always do things that please the Father” (John 8:29).
 He said, “If you continue in My word, you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free” (John 8:31, 32, 36).
 He said, “I proceeded forth and have come from God” (John 8:42).
 He said, “If anyone keeps My word, he will never see death” (John 8:51).
 He said, “Abraham rejoiced to see My day” (John 8:56).
 He said, “Before Abraham was, I Am” (John 8:58).

- Rejoice in all the evidences that Jesus Christ is indeed God.
- Let us be quick to recognize and not doubt the truths of God, especially when they are right in front of our eyes.

Activities:

- Play dough: temple; men
- Talk about and write on a chalk- or white board these different names for God: Elohim (God); Yaweh (LORD, Jehovah); Adoni (Master); El Elyon (God Most High); I AM WHO I AM (the self-existent God). There are many more. (See https://www.blueletterbible.org/study/misc/name_god.cfm.)
- Discuss why the Jews did not believe in Jesus: They were not ordained to eternal life. They were full of themselves. They were heady with knowledge but not experience with God. They were distracted by their pre-conceived ideas so that they misunderstood the truth in front of them.
- Discuss some Jewish leaders who *did* believe on Jesus: Nicodemus, who came to Him by night; Jairus, a ruler of the synagogue whose daughter Jesus raised from the dead; Joseph of Arimathea, who lent his tomb for Jesus’ burial; other rulers of the Jews who kept quiet for fear (John 12:42); possibly the officers in today’s story.
- Discuss how Abraham rejoiced to see Jesus’ day: In his *seed* (singular) the nations would be blessed. He saw Melchizedek—either Jesus Himself or a type of Jesus. One of the three “angels” who announced the birth of Isaac was no doubt the pre-incarnate Jesus. The sacrifice and resurrection of Isaac prefigured Jesus (<https://www.biblestudytools.com/commentaries/gills-exposition-of-the-bible/john-8-56.html>).
- Review questions: (Game: Make a second copy of the page found below entitled, “Jesus’ Words to Opponents . . . Believers.” Cut apart all ten statements, fold each one, and place in a container. If a student answers a question correctly, [s]he may draw a slip of paper from the container and put the statement in a pile either for “Opponents” or “Believers.”)
 1. How did Jesus respond to the accusation about the sinful woman? [Wrote on the ground; said the one without sin should throw the first stone.]
 2. What did Jesus say to the sinful woman when she was left alone? [“I do not condemn you. Go and sin no more.”]
 3. Fill in the blanks. Jesus said, “He who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life. I am _____.” [The Light of the world.]
 4. Who were the two witnesses that testified of Jesus? [Jesus Himself and the Father.]
 5. When Jesus said about the Jews, “You are from below . . . you are of this world,” what did He say to contrast Himself to them? [“I am from above . . . I am not of this world.”]
 6. Complete Jesus’ statement: “If the Son shall make you free, you _____.” [Shall be

free indeed.]

7. Jesus said the Jews' father was who? [The devil.]
8. How were the Jews like their father, the devil? [Murderers; liars; non-believers in Jesus.]
9. What statement of deity did Jesus make that caused the Jews to pick up stones to throw at Him? [Before Abraham was, I Am."]
10. Why was Jesus able to escape stoning? [Because His time had not yet come.]

Memory Verse[s]:

- John 8:12— Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, "I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life."

Handwork:

- Color the clip art picture found below.

adultery

scribes and

Pharisees

testimony

“I Am”

Jesus' Words to His Opponents

- “If you knew Me, you would know My Father also.”
- “I go away, and you will seek Me, and will die in your sin.”
- “Where I am going, you cannot come.”
- “You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world.”
- “You will die in your sins, for unless you believe that I am He, you will die in your sins.”
- “I have many things to speak and to judge concerning you.”
- “He who sent Me is true; and the things which I heard from Him, these I speak to the world.”
- “When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am.”
- “I do nothing on My own initiative, but I speak these things as the Father taught Me.”
- “He who sent Me is with Me. He has not left Me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to Him.”

Jesus' Words to Believers

- “He who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life” (John 8:12).
- “If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free” (John 8:31, 32, 36).
- “If God [is] your Father, you . . . love Me” (John 8:42).
- “He who is of God hears the words of God” (John 8:47).
- “If anyone keeps My word, he will never see death” (John 8:51). We may die physically but not spiritually.











