

Title: The Eternal One and Abundance

Text: John 8:42–59

Main Idea: We are saved by grace through faith unto obedience for our abundance.

Opening Question (5–10 min)

- Have you ever heard or quoted the line, “I am the master of my fate, I am the captain of my soul”? What feelings or values do those words stir up for you?
 - Can you think of a time in your life when you realized you were not in control like you thought you were?
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Read Aloud (5 min)

Read John 8:42–59 together. Invite different group members to read sections of the passage aloud.

1. Their Struggle: Jesus Claims to Be God (10–15 min)

“Before Abraham was born, I AM!” – John 8:58

- What does Jesus mean when He says, “Before Abraham was born, I AM”? Why was this statement so offensive to His listeners?
 - Why do you think Jesus made such a bold claim during the Feast of Tabernacles?
 - Put yourself in the religious leaders’ shoes—why would Jesus’ words provoke such anger?
 - What stands out to you about the way Jesus responds to opposition in this passage?
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2. Our Struggle: We Like Independence from God (15–20 min)

“Whoever belongs to God hears what God says. The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to God.” – John 8:47

- How does this passage challenge the values of our culture today?
 - In what ways do you personally struggle with wanting to be the “captain” of your own soul?
 - How do Genesis 3 and Henley’s *Invictus* reflect the human desire for independence from God?
 - How does it sit with you that *belonging to God* precedes *hearing* and *believing* in Jesus?
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3. The Point: Obedience to Jesus Brings Eternal Life (15–20 min)

“Very truly I tell you, whoever obeys my word will never see death.” – John 8:51

- Jesus links obedience to eternal life. How do we reconcile that with the idea of salvation by grace through faith?
 - Read John 3:16 and John 20:31. How do belief and obedience work together in the Christian life?
 - Why do you think people often separate “faith” and “obedience”? What does this passage show us about their connection?
 - What might “abundant life” look like for you—not just eternal life someday, but here and now?
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Reflection & Response (10–15 min)

- What would it look like for you to respond in trust and obedience to Jesus this week?
 - Have you made a public confession of faith through baptism? If not, what’s holding you back?
 - Spend time praying together, inviting Jesus to help each person surrender their independence and find life in Him.
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Optional Scripture for Deeper Study

- **1 Corinthians 12:3** – Only by the Spirit can someone say “Jesus is Lord.”
 - **John 10:10** – Jesus came to bring life to the full.
 - **Ephesians 2:8–10** – Saved by grace through faith *unto* good works.
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Closing Challenge

Will you live as the *master of your fate* and *captain of your soul*?

Or will you trust the one who said, “Before Abraham was born, I AM”?