



## 1. Welcome

If this is your first time with us, we'd love to let you know more about who we are and what we do. Please let Joel or Anna know your email details and we will be in touch.

## 2. What's on?

### **Christmas Carol Service – 9<sup>th</sup> December, Thursday, 1-2pm**

Mark your calendars! After a one year hiatus our annual Christmas carol service is back. This is a great chance to invite your colleagues to join in for carols, a talk explaining the meaning of Christmas and enjoying some festive treats.

Nigel Styles, the Director of Cornhill Training Course will be coming to speak for us.

Share our flyer [here](#).

### **Covent Garden Talks – New series Thursdays from 23 Sep, in person and online**

We're starting a new series in John 5-10 titled "The Anatomy of Unbelief". Invite your colleagues by sharing our flyer [here](#).

### **Covent Garden Prays - Wednesdays 8.15-8.45 am on Zoom**

We meet weekly to pray for each other and for the ministry.

[Click to join](#) | Meeting ID: 841 8321 7925 | Passcode: CGT | Add to [Google Cal](#) or [Outlook](#)

### **Covent Garden Groups – Not too late to join**

We are studying the book of Romans together in Covent Garden Groups on Tuesdays (online) and Thursdays (in person). Speak to Joel or Anna to sign up.

### **To find out more, visit us at:**

Website: [www.coventgardentalks.co.uk](http://www.coventgardentalks.co.uk)

Email: [info@coventgardentalks.co.uk](mailto:info@coventgardentalks.co.uk)

FB: [facebook.com/coventgardentalks](https://facebook.com/coventgardentalks)

Twitter: [twitter.com/coventgdntalks](https://twitter.com/coventgdntalks)

## Joh 8:31-59

<sup>31</sup> So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, <sup>32</sup> and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." <sup>33</sup> They answered him, "We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, 'You will become free'?"

<sup>34</sup> Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. <sup>35</sup> The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. <sup>36</sup> So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. <sup>37</sup> I know that you are offspring of Abraham; yet you seek to kill me because my word finds no place in you. <sup>38</sup> I speak of what I have seen with my Father, and you do what you have heard from your father."

<sup>39</sup> They answered him, "Abraham is our father." Jesus said to them, "If you were Abraham's children, you would be doing the works Abraham did, <sup>40</sup> but now you seek to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. This is not what Abraham did. <sup>41</sup> You are doing the works your father did." They said to him, "We were not born of sexual immorality. We have one Father—even God." <sup>42</sup> Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me. <sup>43</sup> Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear my word. <sup>44</sup> You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. <sup>45</sup> But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me. <sup>46</sup> Which one of you convicts me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me? <sup>47</sup> Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God."

<sup>48</sup> The Jews answered him, "Are we not right in saying that you are a Samaritan and have a demon?" <sup>49</sup> Jesus answered, "I do not have a demon, but I honor my Father, and you dishonor me. <sup>50</sup> Yet I do not seek my own glory; there is One who seeks it, and he is the judge. <sup>51</sup> Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death." <sup>52</sup> The Jews said to him, "Now we know that you have a demon! Abraham died, as did the prophets, yet you say, 'If anyone keeps my word, he will never taste death.' <sup>53</sup> Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? And the prophets died! Who do you make yourself out to be?" <sup>54</sup> 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.' <sup>55</sup> But you have not known him. I know him. If I were to say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and I keep his word. <sup>56</sup> Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad." <sup>57</sup> So the Jews said to him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?" <sup>58</sup> Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am." <sup>59</sup> So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.

## Introduction: Why do even the nice “Christians” reject Jesus?

### Context

C7-8: *An analysis of unbelief*  
*A courtroom scene: witness, judge, testimony*

### 7 statements and 7 responses

(1) “My word sets you free” (v31-33)

(2) “Everyone who sins is a slave to sin” (v34-39)

(3) “You are doing the works of your father” (v39b-41)

(4) “You are of your father the devil” (v42-48)

Family likeness of the Devil: **Murdering and lying** (v44)

(5) “You **lie** and slander like your father” (v48-53)

(6) “I’m not a liar like you” (v54-57)

(7) “I AM!” so they picked up stones to **kill** him (v58-59)

### Main point: People are of their father the devil

### Application:

A challenge

Confidence

### Discussion questions:

1. Share what struck you most from today’s passage.
2. How does this passage challenge and give you confidence?
3. Spend time praying for one another