



### **John 8:48 - 59 - *Before Abraham was I AM***

Remind yourselves of the conversation so far in this chapter - how would you characterise the mood? Where do you think the accusation against Jesus in verse 48 is coming from?

Why doesn't Jesus defend himself more robustly? Look at verses 49-50, and ahead to verse 54.

Jesus claims in verse 51 that whoever keeps his word will never see death. What do you think he means? Do the Jews understand him, or misunderstand him?

"Abraham was great because he received and believed God's word; Jesus is greater because..." How would you finish this sentence, on the basis of this passage and what we've seen so far in John's Gospel?

In verse 58, Jesus makes a direct claim to be the God of Israel (by drawing on Exodus 3:14). Why would that have been so difficult for his original hearers to accept? Why is it still difficult today? How can we present that claim to the people around us?

What comfort and encouragement can we draw from Jesus's words in this verse?

- How does it affect how we think about God?
- How might it shape the way we think about our lives?