

The Gospel of John: That You May Believe  
When *Light Meets Darkness*  
John 8:12-8:30 (page 746)

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Jesus is the light of the whole world (John 8:12)

- Israel (*God's Servant*) was supposed to be God's light to the Gentiles but failed (Exo 19:3-6; Isa 41:8-10; 42:19-20; 43:10; 1 Kings 10:6-10; Rom 2:17-24)
- Jesus (*God's Suffering Servant*) is now the light for the whole world (Isaiah 9:1-3; 42:6-7; 49:6; Matt 4:12-16; John 1:1-5,9)

Jesus *responds* to His opponents that His testimony is true and to be believed on the basis of His relationship with His Father (John 8:13-30)

His testimony is valid because:

- Jesus comes from the Father (vs 13-18; Deut 17:7; 19:15)
- Jesus is one with the Father (vs 19-20; 8:42; 10:30)
- Jesus is returning to His Father (vs 21-24)
- Jesus speaks for His Father (vs 25-27; 14:23-24)
- the Cross will vindicate His testimony (vs 28-30; 3:14-15; 8:58; 12:32; Exo 3:14)

**Bring it home...**

Because of human ignorance and stubborn pride many people cannot see, or surrender to Jesus as the Light of the world.

Those of us who claim to follow Jesus as the Light of the world must be careful not to crowd out the light due to our own complacency and self-centeredness in our faith.

Jesus is the the only way to know and worship God and have eternal life.

## Growth Group Sermon Study Helps

John 8:12-30 (Week Nineteen)

(Note: This guide is to help *facilitate* discussion with your Growth Group. Use it as a *RESOURCE* for the group in discovering and applying the truths of God's Word. There may be questions you *do not want to use* and there may be instances where the group *chooses to focus on a particular point, verse or truth*. This guide is to assist the group in growing in their relationship with Christ and the Scriptures, thus, it is *not necessary to complete all of the points in the discussion guide...use this with flexibility and not as a rigid task list to get through*. God's richest blessing upon you all.)

### Intro:

As we pick up in chapter 8:12, we find Jesus beginning another discourse that will go from v 12 through the end of the chapter. It is a difficult chapter to outline, but vs 12-30 and 31-50 give us a bit of a natural break...but the theme stays consistent. The Pharisees and leaders *continue to oppose Jesus* and are totally clueless about the statements He has made about Himself. Our passage is no different - Jesus focuses His responses to their unbelief upon the *relationship* He shares with His Father. It is on the basis of that relationship that He asserts the truth of all He has said and does say, as well as, establishes a reliable witness to His Person, mission and reason for all He does in His earthly ministry. As the Light of the world, He is surrounded by darkness in this passage.

### Discussion Questions

Was there anything said on Sunday that got your attention or that you have a question about?

Did the brief explanation at the beginning of the sermon help you see the relationship of Jesus' claims (Bread of Life/Living Water/Light of the world) in chapters 6,7,and 8 that proved Him to be *the fulfillment of those OT events in the wilderness*? Discuss.

How do the Pharisees and religious leaders respond to Jesus after He announces that He is the light of the world? (v 13,19,22,25) What do you think is at the root of their responses?

What is/are the function of light? How does that relate to Jesus' claim to be the Light of the world? Explain.

What does it mean to "*die in your sins*"? (v 21,24) Why do you think people don't believe what Jesus is saying here?

What example did Jesus set for us in v 29? Do you think it has any application for us in our relationship with Jesus? With God the Father? Discuss.

If someone tells you something, or you read or hear something in the media, how do you typically determine whether it is true or not? How can you know?

If you believe that Jesus' claim is true (v 12) what does that mean to you? How has it affected your life, or how should it affect your life? Why?

### Taking it to the streets....

How have you shared the light of Jesus with those who are walking in darkness? What was the biggest challenge you faced in sharing Christ with them?

What can you learn from Jesus about how to stand strong in the face of opposition to your message about Him?

*Homework:* I will be light in the darkness this week by choosing to \_\_\_\_\_.