



HomeGroup **LEADER** Discussion Questions

Week 3: Jan 16-22

PICK 2-3 OF THE QUESTIONS BELOW FOR YOUR DISCUSSION, OR USE THESE AS A STARTING POINT FOR CREATING EVEN BETTER QUESTIONS YOU MIGHT ASK YOUR GROUP.

The dark is a dangerous place. It conceals hazards and disorients senses. You might think we would avoid it at all costs, but darkness somehow draws us in. It's a place where we can hide. It's a place where unsavory things can be obscured or undetected. Yes, darkness is dangerous, but sometimes we cling to it. It's into this darkness that Jesus calls out, "I am the light of the world."

Main Texts: John 8:12-30

CONNECT

1. Has there been a time when the dark has caused you to trip, fall, or somehow endanger yourself? If so, talk about it with your group.
2. What did you find most significant in this week's sermon?

LEARN

3. Scripture presents God as "light" throughout the Old Testament. Try to think of a few examples.¹ In what ways do you think of God as "light" and how are things opposed to God like "darkness"? See the footnote below for examples of a few OT passages that speak of God as light or the source of light. There are numerous ways God is a "light." With Exodus 13 in mind, we could say that God's light illuminates our path (see Psalm 119:105 to freedom and out of bondage. "Darkness" depicts this kind of bondage to sin and death.
4. Read John 8:12-30. What stands out to you about the passage? According to Jesus, how does someone have the light of life? Verse 12 tells us that those who *follow* Jesus have the light of life. The picture of Israel moving through the wilderness may be helpful here (Exodus 13). Israel was following the cloud by day and the fire by night. Jesus calls us to follow in similar fashion.
5. Jesus' claim about His true identity in v. 12 is met with rejection by the Pharisees over a religious technicality. How does their response demonstrate that they're in "darkness"?

¹ There are many examples, including Genesis 1:3-5 and Exodus 13:17-22. Less familiar examples include Psalm 27:1, 119:105; Isaiah 42:6; 49:6 and 51:4.

The Pharisees sought to discredit Jesus rather than consider His claim. They used their own rabbinic teaching (based off Deut 19:15) to object, which in-turn further obscured Jesus' true identity from them.

APPLY

6. How would you answer if a friend asked, "What does it mean that Jesus is the light of the world?" The intent of this question is to encourage us to try to express in our own words the significance of Jesus' claim.

7. Whoever *follows* Jesus will not walk in darkness. How has following Jesus kept you in the "light"? This question assumes you've already placed your faith in Christ! We know that may not be true of everyone and we also know that some may find it difficult to detect how their faithfulness following Jesus has impacted their life. This question could be a good one for you as a facilitator to answer first to help others think through possible ways they might answer too.

8. Take time to pray together as a group, asking God's Spirit to reveal to you areas of your lives (actions, attitudes, addictions, etc.) that need to be exposed to the light of Jesus. Confess these as they come to mind and ask God to bring transformation.

Be mindful of how some in your group may be struggling secretly with an area of their lives that is not conformed to or consistent with God's ways. This is a good opportunity to demonstrate how confession of sin is a means to bring into the light (of life!) those things that have been hidden. Sin loves the dark, so this question encourages us to bring it into the light...so it can die!