



THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Invite someone from the group to share their faith story. A helpful approach to sharing a testimony is to focus on life before Jesus, meeting Jesus, and life since coming to saving faith in Jesus. Then take some time to encourage and pray for that person. If time allows, share evidences of God's grace that you have observed this past week.

OPENING COMMENT

The purpose of the Gospel of John is that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God and that by believing you may have life in his name (John 20:31). Jesus is the light of the world, and as such has the authority to guide and direct your life. Allow your life to be so filled by the light of Jesus that you can reflect his light in the dark places of the world.

What was the truth or lesson that was impressed on your heart the most from Sunday's sermon?

OPEN YOUR BIBLE AND READ: John 8:12-30 (esv)

"³²Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."¹³So the Pharisees said to him, "You are bearing witness about yourself, your testimony is not true."¹⁴Jesus answered, "Even if I do bear witness about myself, my testimony is true, for I know where I came from and where I am going, but you do not know where I come from or where I am going. ¹⁵You judge according to the flesh, I judge no one. ¹⁶Yet even if I do judge, my judgement is true, for it is not I alone who judge, but I and the Father who sent me. ¹⁷In your Law it is written that the testimony of two people is true. ¹⁸I am the one who bears witness about myself, and the Father who sent me bears witness about me." ¹⁹They said to him therefore, "Where is your Father?" Jesus answered, "You



know neither me nor my Father, If you knew me, you would know my Father also.”

²⁰These words he spoke in the treasury, as he taught in the temple, but no one arrested him, because his hour had not yet come. ... continue reading to verse 30

1. To Reject Jesus is to Remain in Darkness

1. How important is *Light* in the world today?
2. What is the brightest light you have ever seen? How did you feel in the presence of that light? Safe, secure, warm?
3. What is the darkest dark that you have ever experienced? How did you feel when surrounded by darkness? Alone, afraid, cold? Why do we keep our darkest secrets hidden?
4. Are people today still confused (in the dark) about who Jesus is, where he came from, what he came to accomplish, and where he is going? What is the root of the confusion? How do other followers of Jesus add to the confusion?
5. What is our responsibility as those who are living in the light of Christ? Read Matt. 5:14-16 How has the light of Jesus helped you overcome the darkness that used to consume your life?
6. How can the message of the Gospel of John and this passage help you accurately tell others about who Jesus is and what he came to do?

2. To Believe in Jesus is to Receive the Light of Life

A Theology of Light

1. Read v14 - A paraphrase of what Jesus is saying is: “I came from God, I am going to God. And you don’t know God. And therefore you can’t see me as the light of God. Because the fact that I am from God is what it means for me to be the light of the world.” Why did the Jewish religious leaders have so much confusion about who Jesus was, where he came from, what he came to accomplish, and where he was going?
2. What two things does Jesus specifically say in verse 12 about who He is? Read the following passages: Gen 1:2-3; Psalm 27:1; 119:105; Proverbs 6:23; Isaiah 9:2; 42:6-7; 49:6; 60:1-3; Acts 13:47-49 - When Jesus says “I am the light of the world” how is he claiming the name of God for himself?



3. What does the New Testament teach us about who is associated with light? Read John 1:4-5; 1 John 1:5-7; Ephesians 5:8-14 - What do you discover through the passages? Are you discovering ways to explain the truth, that is - to know God is to know Jesus?

Two Responses:

1. **Embrace Jesus as the light of the World**
2. **Let your sin in the dark be brought into the Light.**

1. As we have walked through John's Gospel we have seen many themes emerge, such as routine reference of time, some believing and some not believing. Some hear the message of the gospel and respond with repentance and faith. Some hear the message of the gospel and reject it.
2. Would you rather be in the presence of light or surrounded by darkness? Explain your answer. How long did it take you to see the light of Jesus and allow Him into your life?
3. Do you believe that we live in a world of darkness which needs to see the light of Jesus? Why or why not? Do you have a heart for those who do not believe in the light of Jesus and continue to live in the grip of sin? What is your obligation to those souls?
4. Do you understand that Jesus is the light, who wants to prepare us to be lights that will guide others to believe in Him so they will receive salvation? How should this look in our daily lives?
5. Think about your hidden sins. What is stopping you from confession and repentance of your hidden sins, the sin you are committed to take to your grave? What do you fear? The confession? Being exposed? The consequences?
6. Does Romans 1:18-32 give you food for thought about your hidden sin and your eternal destiny?

CONCLUSION

Jesus is the light of the world, *"I AM the exclusive source of physical and spiritual light in the world"*. How can you reflect His light as you live your life this week? Will others come to believe in Jesus based on the way you live? How can you proclaim accurately who Jesus is and what he has come to accomplish? What is our responsibility as a Missional Community to be a light pointing others to Jesus?



SHARE AND PRAY

- Pray over those people who reject Jesus based on false information.
- If your group experiences a time of confession, don't rush, allow the Holy Spirit to work in the hearts of your group members. Take time to pray for those who trusted the group with their hidden secrets.
- Pray that God would give you the courage to do your best to present yourself to Jesus as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth (2 Tim 2:15), to be a light in a dark place this week.
- Conclude by spending some time praying for one another, with the understanding that Jesus' greatest desire is to see all saved and put their trust in Him. Pray for those in your life that are in need of a relationship with Jesus.

