

032121 Growth Group Study

The Light of the World

John 8:12-20



Background: The Feast of Tabernacles is now over. After a week of joyful festivities, including the morning water drawing ceremony and the evening lighting ceremony, the focus now shifts to the following day. Jesus has just poured a shower of grace and mercy over a woman caught in adultery. Presumably that evening, where the lights of the Temple had been ablaze each night of the previous week, Jesus makes another great claim, “I am the light of the world.” Into that dark night and into this dark world, Jesus says he is the light. Come and join us this Sunday as we explore this extraordinary claim.

Sermon Text (ESV):

John 8:12-20

12 Again 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.” 13 So the Pharisees said to him, “You are bearing witness about yourself; your testimony is not true.” 14 Jesus 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. 15 You judge according to the flesh; I judge no one. 16 Yet even if I do judge, my judgment is true, for it is not I alone who judge, but I and the Father who sent me. 17 In your Law it is written that the testimony of two people is true. 18 I am the one who bears witness about myself, and the Father who sent me bears witness about me.” 19 They 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.” 20 These words he

spoke in the treasury, as he taught in the temple; but no one arrested him, because his hour had not yet come.

Discussion Questions:

- Preparation
 - As you reflect on the sermon, what stands out to you most?
 - What question(s) did you come away with from the sermon?
- Sermon Questions
 - Darkness is a place of fear, insecurity, and confusion. Confusion abounds in our culture because our culture is in the dark to what (who) truth really is. Shawn believes the fields are ripe to share solid truth in love. Where do you see opportunities to bring light into a confused world?
 - Shawn discussed four implications for Jesus being the light of the world. Take a moment to discuss each of these, and comment on which one(s) are most meaningful to you:
 - He reveals God to us: we are never in the dark about who God is or what He's like
 - He reveals true humanity to us: he shows what it means to be truly human through His love & trust of the Father, and His love for others (even enemies)
 - He reveals our human plight: our true problem/hurt is sin, and the only solution/healing is from Jesus Himself
 - He reveals Christians' role in society: we have a great honor to be the light of the world, just as Jesus is
 - Additional reflection questions to discuss with your group:
 - Where do you need his light to shine this week, into your life or into a loved one's life?
 - Where do you need Jesus to help you be brave to reflect his light this week?