



Jesus – the light of the world - John 8:12-30, 1-11.

We continue our learning together from John's Gospel. As we get stuck into these passages we remember why John wrote it in the first place; John 20:31. Let's begin by praying that we may encounter Jesus afresh and rediscover how he is the promised One sent by God, the Son of God, and how have life in his name. As we spend time in the Gospel, seeing people challenging, questioning, discovering and wrestling with who Jesus is, what He says and does, so we learn more of the LORD of our lives; the person we most want others to meet.

John 8:12

This section of the Gospel finds Jesus in the Temple at Jerusalem mingling with the crowds there for the Feast of Tabernacles. Each night of this festival 4 huge lamps were lit in the Court of Women in the Temple. Writers nearer the time speak of Jerusalem being 'bathed' in the glow of these great lights. They were a symbol of God's presence through the journey out of slavery to the promised land (celebrated in the Feast) when he led them with a pillar of fire, but anticipated more light shining as prophesied by Isaiah. (Look up Is.42:6-7; 49:6; 51:4-5)

What is Jesus saying when he declares himself to be **the light of the world**?

Who do you know (even by sight) from other nations?

What difference could this statement from Jesus make to the way we engage with people from other nations?

Turn this into prayer for those from other nations you know, and for those who are sharing Jesus with people from other nations.

But for the Jewish people who heard Jesus say this the message is that Jesus is for those outside of their believing community.

Talk honestly about your feelings about, or experience of inviting people to come to Church with you?

Pool the groups responses and explore ways you could together share the light of life we have with others outside of our believing community.

Read John 8:12-30

Jesus gives the Pharisees evidence to back his claim to be the light of the world as he defends himself against their accusations. Review the evidence he offers. (Answers on the back page – don't look first!)

How is this evidence available to people who may have the same suspicions today? How could we point them to it?

How does Jesus tell them to respond to the evidence? What does he say prevents them? (Answers on the back page again)

Are these same barriers a problem for people today? How do they show themselves?

We're told that many people believed on hearing Jesus speaking about this – what is our expectation of people believing? Why?

What could we do about it?

*This part of John's Gospel emphasizes again the dependence Jesus has on the Father as he speaks, acts and lives. In the light of this look at **John 8:1-11**. Wherever it should fit in the Gospels it is a powerful example of what God does in Jesus as the woman, is brought to him for judgment. She is being used by the men who want to make a point – they've omitted to bring the man she was sleeping with, as the law they were citing expected.*

Reflect on this incident, as an example of Jesus fulfilling 8:28-30 – read it again.

Imagine you were one of the men there, ready to pick up a stone. Why do you walk away?

Put yourself in the woman's shoes. What do you expect to happen? How do you feel? What do think about Jesus' question and response?

As the light of the world shines on this situation and these people what is your response to Him, as a receiver of that light and a bearer of his light to others.

Answers: Evidence Jesus points to; he's come from the Father, the Father is with Him, he's on the journey to the cross and then back to the Father (his mission). All of this is seen in what he says, does which point to who HE is.

Answers: What prevents people from seeing the light – ignorant if /Jesus' mission v14 – judge by human standards v15 – not knowing who Jesus is (refusing to see that) v 19 – trapped in their sin v21 – they are bound by 'this world' in their thinking v23