

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

"Light of the World"

Have you ever thought about how the tiniest of lights can dispel any darkness, but darkness can never extinguish the tiniest of lights? Light is powerful! It exposes what may otherwise stay hidden.

- What is the brightest light you have ever seen? How did you feel in the presence of that bright light? Safe, secure, warm?
- What is the darkest dark that you have ever experienced? How did you feel when surrounded by darkness? Alone, afraid, cold?
- Would you rather be in the presence of light or surrounded by darkness? Explain your answer.

Discussion Questions

Read John 8:12-30

1. Where is Jesus when he speaks the words of verse 12? What festival of the Jews is taking place in Jerusalem that serves as a backdrop for the words of Jesus? **Read John 7:2 & 14**
 - a. What does this particular feast commemorate? **Read Leviticus 23:42-43**
2. What two things does Jesus specifically say in verse 12 about who he is?
 - a. Throughout the Old Testament, who is associated with light? **Read Psalm 27:1; 119:105; and Proverbs 6:23**
 - b. How do Old Testament prophecies describe the coming Messiah? **Read Isaiah 9:2, 6; 42:6-7; and 60:1-3**
3. When Jesus says "I am the light of the world," how is he claiming the name of God for himself? What does the "I am" signify? Jesus does this time after time throughout the Gospel of John. **Read John 6:35; 9:5; 10:7, 11; 11:25; 14:6; 15:1**
4. What does the New Testament teach about who is associated with light? **Read John 1:4-5; 1 John 1:5-7; Ephesians 5:8-14.**
 - a. What is the responsibility of those who are living in the light of Christ? **Read Matt 5:14-16.**
 - b. How has the light of Jesus overcome the darkness that used to consume your life? How has the light of Christ changed you?
 - c. Why did the Jews have so much confusion about who Jesus was, where he came from, what he came to accomplish, and where he was going?

- d. Are people today still confused about who Jesus is, where he came from, what he came to accomplish, and where he is going? What is the root of their confusion?

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 consumed by the light of Jesus so that you can reflect his light in the dark places of this world.