

# Community Group Discussion Questions

“Lite-Bright” John 8:1-12 Mar 25/26

## Getting Started

No one has ever said “turn on the dark”, but instead by turning on the light, darkness has no choice but to submit and vanquish. Today’s message is the continuation of our “I AM” series revealing the teachings of Jesus as God through everyday life illustrations revealing His divine attributes for personal application. Be challenged, encouraged and convinced that through Jesus as the Light of the World, you are the light of the world.

As a group, make a list of all the ways you use and appreciate light. When do you need it? (Possible answers: to see at night when driving, to light up a computer screen, to enjoy the stars, to find your way in your home by candlelight or flashlight when the electricity goes off during a nighttime storm, to appreciate a beautiful painting, etc.)

## Going Deeper

The Context of Light: Feast of Tabernacles or Booths (vs. 1-3)

- Commemoration & Celebration:

At the time Jesus was teaching in the temple, the Jewish people were celebrating the “Feast of Tabernacles.” For 7 days the entire nation camped out. That is, every family moved out doors into booths made of branches & leaves to remind themselves of the hardships that their ancestors had undergone while living in booths or tents during the 40 years in the wilderness.

On the opening night of the celebration a giant Menorah with 4 bowls of oil was set up on the temple grounds in the Court of the Women. Then with great pomp & ceremony, the four bowls of oil were set afire. And ancient accounts say that the light from this giant Menorah lit up the streets of Jerusalem. This was to remind them that God had led their ancestors during their wanderings with a pillar of cloud by day, & a pillar of fire by night.

Can you picture this in your mind? A temporary village of temporary structures lit up by 4 giant bowls full of burning oil and beautiful light. Even in the midst of all their hardships, they had the very presence of God with them, symbolized by the light.

Why do you think Jesus used this occasion to make His claim that He was The Light of the World?

What was He trying to help people understand about Himself?

The Contrast of Light: Law versus Grace (vs. 4-11)

- Conspiracy: “caught in the act” (vs. 4)
- Challenge: “what do you say?” (vs. 5)

Most scholars believe this woman was entrapped in a compromising situation so she could be brought out and displayed before Jesus (maybe just wearing the sheet she been lying on). It was theater designed to force Jesus to make an unpopular choice that would discredit Him with one of the factions in the crowd.

When Jesus bent down to write in the dirt, the Greek phrase for ‘write’ was ‘*kata graphein*’ which means to write a written record against someone. No one knows what Jesus wrote, but the only other recorded time that God’s finger inscribed something was when God gave Moses the Ten Commandments in the Old Testament.

So, if Jesus is using His finger to write in the dirt, it could have symbolized that the Law stands in condemnation over all of us. None of us can deny that we have sinned. Jesus’ words ‘He who is without sin among you, let him be the first to throw a stone at her’ were so convicting and unsettling that the men all walked away, the older ones first, probably because they had lived longer and thus sinned more.

When Jesus said, “**I do not condemn you. Go and sin no more,**” He showed God’s perfect balance between Mercy, Justice, & Holiness. How does this phrase show you Jesus’ heart toward us and our sin?

The Connection to the Light: “I AM...the Light of the World” (vs. 12)

- Creation: Genesis 1:3: “Let there be light”
- Cord: 30 times the word “light” is used in John, 1-3 John, and Revelation.
- Coronation: Revelation 21:23: “The city (of God) has no need of the sun or the moon...for its lamp is the lamb”

What does **darkness** symbolize in our world? (*Possible answers: death, ignorance, sin, evil, hopelessness*)

What does **light** symbolize in our world? (*Possible answers: life, knowledge, righteousness, goodness, purity, hope, new beginnings*)

The Conduct of Light: “whoever follows Me will not walk in darkness” (vs. 12)

- Light Exposes Darkness
- Light Warns of Danger
- Light Gives Distinction
- Light Provides Direction

**Read** Matthew 5:14-16. To be light is the call on the life of every disciple!

Jesus has made it clear that He is The Light of the world, and since Jesus lives in every Christian (Galatians 2:20), how can we possibly hide His light from those around us?

What happens when we let the light of Jesus shine through in our lives? (Verse 16 says unbelievers see Jesus in us and become believers themselves who give glory to God!)

### **Group Prayer Requests**

Pray for those you want to invite for one of our 6 Easter services: Friday at 7:00, Saturday at 5:00 & 7:00, Sunday at 9:00, 11:00, & 1:00