



## SERMON STUDY GUIDE

“JOHN 8:12-30”

### CONNECT

How did last week's passage we read/discussed affect your week?

### DISCOVER

- What did the passage say (in your own words) or what impacted you/did you take away from the sermon this week?
- How does this passage or did the sermon point you to Jesus (teach us about Jesus)?
- Did you find anything challenging about this passage (words you didn't understand, phrases that didn't make sense, etc.)?

JOHN 8:12-30 “I am the Light of the world. Whoever follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the Light of life.” When Jesus spoke from the Temple Treasury in the Court of Women, He revealed yet more of WHO He was – He had already identified Himself as the Living Water and the Bread of Life! When Jesus came to earth from heaven, He stepped into darkness, bringing LIGHT that the darkness could never overcome. Jesus Himself WAS the Light – the MESSIAH whom the Jews had long-awaited. Water, Bread and Light – these are the essentials for life – He was saying, “I am your ESSENTIALS! Unless you believe that I am who I say I am, you will die in your sins – in darkness!”

**DARKNESS and LIGHT:** We live in a world that displays multiple levels of the ‘darkness-light’ contrast. Knowing the differences between light and darkness can have impact in the here and now, and for eternity!

- Let's talk about the levels of darkness and light: what are the positives about darkness – and what are the negatives of darkness? And light – what are its positives and negatives? Take them apart – what do they show you/not show you, how do they affect your emotions, your choices, your purpose, your clarity about your world and yourself, and your self-identity.....????
- What things in your life have you learned from being in darkness? Can you describe a time you found yourself in physical darkness – how did you respond to that, and what happened when light was revealed? How about a spiritual darkness – have you or someone close to you experienced that darkness and struggled to find light?
- What are the darkneses you see in your own world that cause you the most concern? How do you respond to those darkneses – do you tend to ignore them, pray about them, take some kind of action to bring light - ?
- Are there people in your life who are CHOOSING to live in darkness? Why do you think they have chosen this? What do they find offensive or fearful about moving toward the light? How can you illuminate their darkness?

**JESUS IN THE TEMPLE TREASURY:** Jesus had a message the people were not expecting. As they celebrated the LIGHT that shone in the darkness to guide the Israelites through the wilderness, and as they anticipated the LIGHT to come – the Messiah, Jesus made a BOLD statement: “I am the Light of the world!” Then He went on to say that whoever followed Him would not walk in darkness, but would have the Light of life!

- The listeners here are Jews; they know the Scriptures. They are anticipating the prophesied Messiah and have seen Jesus do marvelous things. How do you think they responded to Jesus' words here? What positives and negatives do you think they were thinking about this talk of darkness and light? What questions might they be having?
- Jesus chose to say, “Whoever...” What effect does that word have on you in this context?
- The Pharisees and religious leaders did their best to shut Jesus down – to ‘turn out the Light’ – but what happened instead? How did the gospel grow from the time of Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection to right now? What effect do the darkneses of persecution and murder have on the gospel? Why is this?
- In Vs. 13-14 the Pharisees accused Jesus of bearing witness about Himself, but Jesus responded by



## SERMON STUDY GUIDE CONT.

aligning Himself with the Father. What are the ways God the Father bears witness to His Son? How does that impact you?

- Read Vs. 14-19. Why did Jesus say the Pharisees knew neither Him nor His Father? How are we sometimes like the Pharisees? What does it mean to say, "You can't see Jesus if you're looking at yourself?"
- Read Vs. 23-24. How does the word "unless" bring significant impact to these verses? How do you think the people in the Temple Treasury heard that? What does it mean to you?
- Verse 25 tells us the Jews asked Jesus, "Who are you?" What FACTS do we know about who Jesus is? What fact or facts are most important to you?

**JESUS ALWAYS KEPT ON LOVING THE PEOPLE.** No matter how they spoke to Him, how they accused Him, how they treated Him, He loved. Right through His crucifixion, His ultimate act of love for us all! What an example for us to follow!

- How does Jesus' love encourage and challenge you to WALK INTO DARKNESS and BE THE LIGHT? What would that look like for you? Jason told us a story of being in the darkness of a cave and the difference lighting a MATCH made! He told us God called us to BE THE MATCH! How will you love God this week by being His 'match' in loving people?

### RESPOND

- How does this passage encourage you, challenge you, or change you in your efforts to become more like Jesus?
- What is one thing you learned about yourself from God's Word? How will you respond in obedience this week?
- Who is someone you can have a conversation with about what Jesus is doing in your life or invite to join you at a CU Church gathering.

### PRAY

... for each other and spend time praising God. Pray that he will show you how to better love God and love people.