

Connect Group Studies



'Bringing God and people together'

JESUS: THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Q: Experiencing real darkness is pretty rare for us where we live. When have you been most glad of having a light to follow?

Look up and Read:

In John 8:12 Jesus spoke to the people once more and said, "I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won't have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life."

In "the treasury" where Jesus spoke these words there were two colossal golden lamp-stands, on them hung a multitude of lamps. These were lit after the evening sacrifice, and probably every evening during the feast of tabernacles, lit in commemoration of the pillar of fire by which God led the Israelites on their journey to the promised land. It is said that their brilliance shone out over the whole city. Around these the people danced with great rejoicing. Now, amidst the blaze and the joy of this illumination, Jesus announces, "I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD"--plainly in the most absolute sense.

Q: What do you think Jesus was saying in calling himself the light?

- What he is in himself—excellent and glorious.
- What he is to the world—the fountain of light, enlightening every person.

Q: What does light symbolizes in the bible?

(If you don't get several responses, look up some scriptures for clues. There is a list at the end of the study for your convenience)

Q: In John 8:12, what are we instructed to do as Christians?

To *follow him*, to submit ourselves to his guidance, and in every thing take directions from him. It is not enough to *look at* this light, and to *gaze at* it, but we must follow it, believe in it, and walk in it, as Psalm 119:105 says it is a light to *our feet*, not *our eyes* only.

Q: If you were both literally and spiritually in the dark, and Jesus had the only torch, how does following him help you?

Summing up:

If we follow Christ, by following Jesus' example and instructions *and* by following the promptings of the Holy Spirit (Christ in us), we will *not walk in darkness* and we will be happy and safe!

We will not be left without instructions in the way of truth, which can keep us from destructive mistakes, and obeying the Lord's directions will keep us from sin.

We will have the *light of life*, the knowledge and enjoyment of God, which will be the light of spiritual life in this world and of everlasting life in the other world, where there will be no death or darkness.

Follow Christ, and we will undoubtedly be happy in both worlds! Follow Christ, and we will follow him to heaven!

What would the world be without the sun! What would it be without Christ by whom *God's light came into the world*, (John 3:19).

Optional Extra: Discuss either of these two scriptures.

Matt 5:16 In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.

Eph 5:8 For once you were full of darkness, but now you have light from the Lord. So live as people of light. **Resource references: What does light symbolize in the bible?**

Psalms 97:11 - Light shines on the godly, and joy on those whose hearts are right.

Psalms 119:105 - Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path.

Isaiah 42:6-7 - I, the LORD, have called you to demonstrate my righteousness. I will take you by the hand and guard you, and I will give you to my people, Israel, as a symbol of my covenant with them. And you will be a light to guide the nations. You will open the eyes of the blind. You will free the captives from prison, releasing those who sit in dark dungeons.

Isaiah 58:8 - Then your salvation will come like the dawn, and your wounds will quickly heal. Your godliness will lead you forward, and the glory of the LORD will protect you from behind.

Hosea 6:3 - Oh, that we might know the LORD! Let us press on to know him. He will respond to us as surely as the arrival of dawn or the coming of rains in early spring.

Malachi 4:2 - But for you who fear my name, the Sun of Righteousness will rise with healing in his wings. And you will go free, leaping with joy like calves let out to pasture.

Luke 1:78-79 - Because of God's tender mercy, the morning light from heaven is about to break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide us to the path of peace.

Luke 2:32 - He is a light to reveal God to the nations, and he is the glory of your people Israel!

1 John 1:5 - This is the message we heard from Jesus and now declare to you: God is light, and there is no darkness in him at all.