

king's chapel

Community Group Discussion Guide

Week of April 24, 2016

This Week's Focus: Jesus is the light of the world whose redeeming work on the cross is the only way for sinful, rebellious humans to be reconciled to God and saved from eternal death.

This Week's Text: John 8:12-30

"Again, Jesus spoke to them, saying, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.'" **John 8:12**

"Since a rebellious will is the major barrier to a reception of God's truth and since it is only at the cross that the barrier is removed, it is, therefore, only at the cross that the light of God's revelation is enabled to illuminate the soul." **James Montgomery Boice**

Observations and Questions for Discussion:

- What are your general impressions about this week's sermon?
- What is the setting for this passage? Reference John 7:2, 37. What does this feast commemorate? Where was Jesus teaching? Reference verse 20. What was important about this location in the Temple?
- The Feast of Tabernacles/Booths included two ceremonies, the Water ceremony and the Light ceremony. Using the signs, symbols, and ceremonies of the feast, what incredible claim did Jesus make about himself? How does the symbol of light point to Jesus' divinity? Reference Genesis 1:3, Exodus 13:21-22, Psalm 27:1, Psalm 119:105, Proverbs 6:23, Isaiah 60:19-20, and Revelation 21:23-24.
- What is so significant about Jesus' "I am" statements in verses 12, 24, and 28? Reference Exodus 3:14-15.
- How does "darkness" describe the default condition of every human heart? Reference verse 12 and John 3:19-20.

- How did the Pharisees try to use Jesus' statement to trap him? How did Jesus respond? To whom did Jesus appeal as his Witness?
- What scathing indictment did Jesus make of the Pharisees? How did they - the biblical scholars and religious elite - fail to recognize Jesus as the Son of God, sent by the Father in fulfillment of the law and prophets?
- What is the consequence of remaining in darkness? Reference verses 21-24. Discuss how the gospel is the only way to the saving and sustaining light of Jesus Christ.
- How does the passage encourage you to declare and demonstrate the gospel in your community and spheres of influence?