



Part 2: The Light of the World

The contrast between light and darkness is a metaphor that our world understands and uses. To speak of something being in the “light” is a good thing; to speak of something being in the “dark” is a bad thing. While it is easy (and tempting) to talk about how “messed up” the world around us is, the truth is we have some “darkness” inside of us. We stumble around confused and swayed by the wisdom of the world all while missing the light that could be ours. It is into this world lost in spiritual nightfall and to all people searching for a path through the darkness that Jesus speaks a powerful message: “I am the light of the world.”

Bottom Line: Jesus came to be my light.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is your most vivid memory as a child in a dark place (cave, tunnel, power blackout)? What feelings do you associate with darkness?
2. **Read John 1:1-9.** In what ways do you think the metaphor of “light” and “darkness” are effective for John’s purposes in writing his Gospel about Jesus?
 - a. In what ways does what John writes in the above passages resonate with you?
3. **Read John 3:16-21.** In your experience, why do people avoid coming into the “light”? Why is it easier to talk about the darkness of the “world” and ignore the darkness inside yourself?
4. **Read 1 John 1:5-7.** What does it mean to “walk in the darkness”?
5. **Read John 8:12.** What does it mean to “follow” Jesus? What does it require of a person?
 - a. How does believing in and following Jesus “turn on the lights” in (your) life?
 - b. How has following Jesus brought light in your life?
 - c. What areas of your life used to be in darkness but are now in the light?
 - d. What areas still need more of the light of Jesus?
6. What has been the most helpful thought/idea from the message this week? How has that thought/idea helped you?
7. How can the group pray for or encourage you this week?

*If time doesn’t allow for you to discuss all of these questions, use only the ones you feel would be most helpful for your group.