
The Gospel of John: That You May Believe
“The Light of Life”
John 8:12-30

Thoughts to Shape and Spark Discussion:

“One sun enlightens the whole world, so does one Christ and there needs no more.” — Matthew Henry

GIRL IN THE CROWD: But Miss Glinda, why does Wickedness happen?

GLINDA: That’s a good question. One that many people find confusifying: are people born Wicked? Or do they have Wickedness thrust upon them? — *Wicked*

"The cross is the blazing fire at which the flame of our love is kindled, but we have to get near enough for its sparks to fall on us." — John Stott

“‘And you, Ring-bearer,’ she said, turning to Frodo. ‘I come to you last who are not last in my thoughts. For you I have prepared this.’ She held up a small crystal phial: it glittered as she moved it, and rays of white light sprang from her hand. ‘In this phial,’ she said, ‘is caught the light of Eärendil’s star, set amid the waters of my fountain. It will shine still brighter when night is about you. May it be a light to you in dark places, when all other lights go out.’” — Galadriel, in *The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers*

Themes and Questions to Guide Reflection and Response:

Icebreaker: Describe the most beautiful place you have ever been. What was it like in the daytime compared to nighttime?

What does it mean that Jesus is not just “a light” but “*the* Light of the world” (John 8:12) or “a light to you in dark places, when all other lights go out”? How is this different from seeing Him as one guide among many?

Why do you think the religious leaders in John 8 were so confused about Jesus’ identity and mission? In what ways can religious activity today still mask unbelief in the true Jesus?

Jesus says, “Unless you believe that I AM, you will die in your sins” (8:24). What does it look like to believe *into* Jesus (to rest on Him fully) rather than just believe *about* Him? Where do you feel tempted to trust yourself instead of trusting Christ?

The light of Jesus shines most brightly at the darkest moment — the cross. How does knowing that change the way you view your own seasons of darkness, fear, or failure? Can you think of a time when God brought light to a dark place in your life?

Jesus says His followers will “never walk in darkness” (8:12), and later He calls us “the light of the world” (Matt. 5:14). What does it mean for us to reflect Christ’s light in our neighborhoods, workplaces, and relationships? Where might God be calling you this week to “shine” with His light?

Take some time to pray together as a group. Maybe one question to ask is: What’s most important to you right now? Pray about those things and ask for God’s help and wisdom.