



Walking With the Savior

Through An Eyewitness Account of John

John, one of the sons of Zebedee, stood as an eyewitness to the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. He began his journey as a fisherman, leaving behind his nets and the future he had planned for himself to follow a teacher, a prophet, and a miracle worker. At the outset, John did not fully understand who Jesus was or what lay ahead. In faith, he aligned himself with Jesus, drawn by His words and deeds.

As John walked alongside Jesus, witnessing His teachings and miracles, he gradually realized that Jesus was far more than a prophet or a remarkable teacher. John came to understand that Jesus was God in the flesh. This revelation was not just a turning point for John personally, but a moment of eternal significance. By choosing to follow Jesus, John's future was forever changed, and his decision would go on to impact the world—not only in his own time but throughout every generation to come. ***Let's embark on an inspiring journey with John as we walk alongside Jesus.***

Background Matters

This discourse continues Jesus' public teaching in the city of Jerusalem in the temple area. How fitting that during the Feast of Tabernacles, when the large lamps were burning, **Jesus ... said, I am the Light of the world** (cf. 1:4, 9; 12:35, 46). The world is in darkness, a symbol of evil, sin, and ignorance (Isa. 9:2; Matt. 4:16; 27:45; John 3:19). "Light" in the Bible is a symbol of God and His holiness (Acts 9:3; 1 John 1:5). Jesus is "*the* Light," not merely a light or another light among many lights. He is the only Light, "the true Light" (John 1:9), for the whole world. When Jesus said, **Whoever follows Me**, He meant whoever believes and obeys Him (cf. 10:4–5, 27; 12:26; 21:19–20, 22). Jesus was speaking of salvation.

Coming to Christ for salvation results in a different kind of life. A believer **will never walk in darkness**, that is, he will not live in it (cf. 12:46; 1 John 1:6–7). He does not remain in the realm of evil and ignorance (John 12:46) for he has Christ as his **Light** and salvation (cf. Ps. 36:9).

8:13. Again **the Pharisees challenged** His claim. Since He appeared **as His own witness**, they said His **testimony** was **not valid**. Self-authentication is sometimes unacceptable. The Law required two



witnesses to establish a fact in capital offenses (Deut. 17:6; 19:15; John 8:17). Rabbinic tradition rejected self-testimony.

8:14. Sometimes, however, self-authentication is the only way to truth. Sometimes an individual is the only one who knows the facts about himself. And only God can give **testimony** to Himself. **Jesus** was competent to give a true witness of Himself because as God He has a comprehensive knowledge of His origin and destiny (7:29). In spite of what the Pharisees thought they knew about Jesus, they were ignorant of His heavenly origin and destiny (cf. 7:33–34), and thus were invalid judges of Him.

8:15. The Pharisees, Jesus said, judged **by human standards**, that is, they were limited by superficial appearances. They saw only His flesh, not His deity, so they misjudged Him. By contrast, Jesus did not come to **judge** people but to save them (3:17). When He does judge in the future, He will simply execute the Father's will according to truth and the Law (cf. 5:27, 45). He Himself will **pass judgment on no one**.

8:16. Jesus' judging was totally unlike theirs. Theirs was biased and limited. His was not His own because of His unique union **with the Father**. Nor was His witness **alone**; He spoke with divine authority.

8:17–18. **In your own Law** may refer to Deuteronomy 17:6; 19:15 (or to Rabbinic laws), which speak of the necessity of **two** witnesses. In Jesus' case only God could authenticate Him. God the Son and God **the Father** are the required two Witnesses. The Father **sent** Jesus and authenticated Him by the signs (miracles) He performed.

8:19. Jesus' teaching on God as His **Father** was unique (cf. 5:18), and the Jews were puzzled by His familiar way of talking about Him. The Pharisees **asked Him, Where is Your Father?** Was He talking about God, or (as they supposed) His human father? Their ignorance of Jesus showed their ignorance of God, for Jesus is the Revelation of the **Father** (cf. 1:14, 18; 14:7, 9).

8:20. Jesus **spoke these words while teaching in the temple area near the place where the offerings were put**. This was probably in the women's court (see the diagram at 8:12; cf. Mark 12:41–42). Jesus went there and instructed the people. **No one seized** (*piazō*, "arrested") **Him** (cf. John 7:30, 32, 44, 10:39) **because**, as John repeatedly pointed out, Jesus was working on God's **time** schedule to accomplish the Father's will (cf. 2:4; 7:6, 30; 12:23, 27; 13:1; 17:1).

8:21. Just as His time was short, so their opportunity for trusting in Him was limited. Soon He would go back to His Father and they could not follow Him there (cf. 7:33–34). **You will die in your sin**. The singular "sin" is that of rejecting the One who offers salvation (cf. 16:9). They would "die" because they continued living in the realm of sin, remaining under its power. Physical death would be their prelude to eternal separation from God.

8:22. Their question, **Will He kill Himself?** was both a misunderstanding and an ironic prophecy. They wondered if He would commit suicide and thus be unreachable. (Earlier they thought He meant He would go teach non-Jews in other lands [7:35].) Though Jesus did not kill Himself, He did lay down His own life (10:11, 18).

8:23. Jesus pointed out His heavenly origin and His real home (**from above ... not of this world**). They belong here (**from below ... of this world**), but He does not.

8:24. Jesus said twice they **would die** in their **sins** (cf. this pl. with the sing. "sin" in v. 21). If they would reject the Sin-Bearer (1:29), they would continue in the realm of sin. If they would reject Jesus as the revelation of God, they would miss their only hope for salvation. **I am the One I claim to be** in



Greek is the enigmatic “I Am,” which is a self-designation for God in certain contexts (cf. Isa. 43:10–11, LXX).

8:25. This revelation of Jesus as “I Am” only confused the Jews. And His words about their sins probably angered them. **Who are You? they asked.** He replied, **Just what I have been claiming all along.** This is the NIV’s translation of a problematic Greek sentence. (Other translations make it a question or an exclamation.)

8:26–27. Jesus could have said much more and even condemned His hearers, but His purpose in coming was to give them and **the world** the message from the One **who sent** Him. This message is certainly true because the Sender **is reliable** (cf. 7:18, 28). John added that the people **did not understand that** Jesus **was** referring to the **Father**. God was unknown to them so they missed Jesus (cf. 1:18).

8:28. **Jesus** was now unknown to them. Only the Crucifixion (when **the Son of Man** would be **lifted up**; cf. 3:14; 12:32) would enable them to see Him for **who** He really is. He did not mean that all will be saved, but that the Cross would reveal that Jesus is God’s Word (the *Logos*) to man, and that what He taught was **just what the Father ... taught** Him.

8:29. Jesus’ union with the Father is one of love and continual obedience (cf. 4:34; 5:30). Though people reject Jesus, the Father will never abandon Him. Jesus is never **alone**, and even on the cross the Father glorified Him (cf. 16:32; 17:5).

8:30. In spite of widespread unbelief and official rejection, the ministry of Jesus did bring many to faith (cf. 7:31). Yet this faith would need to be tested and refined. The words **many put their faith in Him** contrast with the next verse. Though large numbers of people responded to Jesus, many people fell away.¹

This week in "Walking With the Savior"

During the Feast of Tabernacles, Jesus shared profound teachings in the temple area of Jerusalem. Amidst the glow of the large lamps, He confidently declared, "I am the Light of the world," inviting everyone to embrace His message!

In a world often touched by darkness—representing challenges and misunderstandings—light stands as a beautiful symbol of God's presence and holiness, as seen in scriptures like Acts 9:3 and 1 John 1:5. Jesus is not just another source of illumination; He is the ultimate beacon of hope and guidance for all.

¹ Edwin A. Blum, “John,” in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 303–305.



When we open our hearts to Christ for salvation, we experience remarkable transformations! This change empowers us to shine brightly, reflecting the Spirit's light within us and positively impacting those around us who long for meaningful transformation.

Jesus' powerful words remind us of His incredible ability to spread the light of salvation to every soul. Let's carry this light forward and inspire others to discover the hope and joy it brings!

Study Guide 26

This study guide presents daily assignments that are specifically crafted to enhance your growth in the Word. Embrace each moment to meditate and reflect, and watch as your spiritual maturity flourishes through your dedicated efforts.

The Amazing Claims of Jesus

John 8:12–30

Topics:

Authority, Believe, Darkness, Eternal Life, Faith, God, Jesus Christ, Judgment, Knowledge, Leadership, Light, People, World

Open It, Mondays. Open your heart and mind to the truth of the Word.

1. *When was a time you were able to verify someone else's testimony?

Explore It, Tuesdays, keep the rhythm of personal study moving.

2. Who did Jesus say that He was? (8:12)

3. What did Jesus say would be the result of following Him? (8:12)



4. How did the Pharisees challenge Jesus? (8:13)

5. *Why did Jesus say His own testimony was valid? (8:14)

6. Why did Jesus say His decisions were right? (8:15–16)

7. *What two witnesses did Jesus claim testified on His behalf? (8:17–18)

8. Why did Jesus say that the Pharisees didn't know His Father? (8:19)

Push on Wednesday, keep the rhythm of personal study moving.

9. Why didn't anyone seize Jesus? (8:20)

10. How did the Jews respond to Jesus' words? (8:21–22)

11. What did Jesus say would be the consequence of not believing in Him? (8:23–24)

12. What question did the Jews ask Jesus? (8:25)

13. How did Jesus answer the Jews' question? (8:25–26)



14. *At what point did Jesus say that the people would know who He was? (8:27–28)

15. Whom did Jesus say He pleased? (8:29)

16. How did the people respond to Jesus' words? (8:30)

Get It Thursdays, keep the rhythm of personal study moving.

17. How is Jesus the light in your world?

18. How were you in darkness before you believed in Jesus?

19. *Why is Jesus' testimony credible to you?

20. Why are people today confused about Jesus' identity?

21. How is Jesus' relationship with God an example for our relationship with God?

22. In what way has God been reliable in your life?

23. *What would people say about the validity of your testimony?



Drive it Home, Fridays, keep the rhythm of personal study moving.

24. How can you seek to please God with what you do today?

25. *In what way can you testify on behalf of Jesus this week?

A Journey Through The Gospel of John **2026**

Download your study guide at:

Unlockingthetruth.us