

Discussion Questions

1. As we go through our lives, we sometimes find that what we thought was true didn't turn out to be so. Think about when that has happened to you: when have you thought something was true, and been thinking and living according to that, and then (the "lights came on") found out it was false? How did that affect you in the moment?

2. In John 8, Jesus is making an incredible claim: that He is the source of truth and salvation that our souls ultimately need. He also makes it clear that without Him, we are walking in darkness. That darkness is the darkness of separation from God because of our sin. It is a state of being where we are separated from God, and believing and living in many lies. Think about your own life before knowing Jesus: can you remember what it was like to live in spiritual darkness without Jesus? What did "walking in darkness" look like in your life?

3. Jesus makes it clear that He is God, and only He can give us the truth and salvation we need to be brought out of spiritual darkness and into His light. Jesus speaks in the language of slavery - in darkness, we are slaves to sin, but in Him, we are set free to love and serve Him, which is true freedom. Jesus is making a huge claim that when we believe in Him, He promises He will transform us with truth. How has Jesus transformed you with His truth? What's the difference in your life between walking in darkness and walking in the light of Jesus?

4. Jesus' statement that He is the light of the world, points to when He took our darkness on the cross. On the cross, Jesus cried out with the deep anguish that our souls deserved, to the point where He cried, "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?" (Mark 15:33-34) In that moment, Jesus was experiencing your darkness in your place, and simultaneously purchasing your eternity of life and light with Him. Take a moment to dwell on the reality of Jesus' love for you on the cross and how He has become your light: your life and salvation, forever.

5. For believers, we have already been taken out of darkness and put into Jesus' light when we first believed in Him. But now, our lives are a journey of learning and embracing what it means to be people of light (see Ephesians 5:3-9). Look at the Ephesians passage above - reflect on it for a moment. What does it mean for you, today, from this passage, to live in the light of Jesus? How is the Holy Spirit calling you out of your old darkness and into the light of Jesus?

Time of Prayer:

Take some time to pray through the prompts below. If you are in a group, assign one to anyone willing, and take turns praying together.

- Pray that God would graciously show you how amazing Jesus' sacrifice for your sin and darkness was.
- Pray that you would embrace living in the light of Jesus, and that those who know Jesus around you do the same.
- Pray for those around you who are still living in darkness and don't know Jesus. Ask God to show them their need for Him, and that they would accept Jesus for who He really is: as their savior and the absolute leader of their lives.
- Pray that the Church (the people of both local churches and global churches) would be such a light in the darkness of this world, that people would be drawn to Jesus through them.