



LIFE AND
LIGHT

THE LIFE YOU WANT. THE LIGHT YOU NEED.

GROUP PARTICIPANT GUIDE

Series: Life & Light

John 1:1–5

OPENING QUESTION

- What is one meaningful or encouraging moment from this past week?

READ THE PASSAGE

John 1:1–5

OBSERVATION

Q1 — What words or phrases stand out to you as you read these verses?

Q2 — What specific claims does John make about “the Word”?

Q3 — How does verse 5 describe the interaction between light and darkness?

INTERPRETATION

Q4 — Why do you think John starts by describing Jesus’ identity instead of starting with events?

Q5 — What does the passage reveal about Jesus’ relationship to God?

Q6 — What does John mean when he says “in Him was life”?

Q7 — What does the triumph of light over darkness in verse 5 tell us about Jesus’ power and purpose?



APPLICATION

Q8 — If Jesus is who John says He is, how should that shape the way we relate to Him daily?

Q9 — Where do people around us commonly look for “life,” and how does this passage challenge those pursuits?

Q10 — For someone walking through discouragement or uncertainty, how does verse 5 offer hope?

RESPONSE

- What is one area of your life where you need to trust Jesus as the true source of life this week?
- Where do you need His light to shine into something dark, confusing, or discouraging?
- What is one practical step you can take this week to align your life under who Jesus is?



GROUP PARTICIPANT GUIDE

Series: Light and Life

John 1:6–8

OPENING DISCUSSION

When have you needed someone else to “point something out” for you—directions, instructions, or something you overlooked?

OBSERVATION — WHAT DOES THE TEXT SAY?

Read John 1:6–8 aloud.

SECTION 1 — v. 6

Observation Questions

1. What is the very first thing John the author tells us about John the Baptist?
2. How does the phrase “sent from God” shape how we should view John’s role?

SECTION 2 — v. 7

Observation Questions

1. According to the text, *why* did John come?
2. What is the purpose of his witnessing?

SECTION 3 — v. 8

Observation Questions

1. Why do you think John emphasizes that John the Baptist was not the Light?
2. What does this verse reveal about the danger of confusing the witness with the One being witnessed to?



APPLICATION — HOW SHOULD THIS SHAPE US TODAY?

Application Questions

1. John the Baptist understood he wasn't the Light but a witness.
Where do we sometimes feel pressure to *be* the light instead of *point to* the Light?
2. God sent John "so that all might believe."
What might it look like for us to live with a similar sense of purpose in our workplace, neighborhood, or relationships?
3. People in John's day confused the messenger with the message.
Where do Christians today sometimes shift more attention to people or leaders than to Jesus Himself?

RESPONSE — HOW WILL WE LIVE THIS OUT?

1. What is one concrete place this week where you sense Jesus prompting you to witness—to point someone carefully and humbly toward Him?
2. What is one area where you need to rest in the truth that *you are not the Light*?
3. Who in your life helped point you to Jesus? How might God use you similarly in someone else's story?



Group Participant Guide

Series: Light and Life

John 1:9–13

OPENING QUESTION

Q: When you were growing up, how did your family “welcome people in”? (Think hospitality, traditions, warmth, awkwardness, etc.)

OBSERVATION & DISCUSSION

Read John 1:9–13

1. John 1:9 — The True Light

Observation Questions

1. What does John emphasize by calling Jesus the **true** light?
2. What stands out to you about the phrase “gives light to everyone”?

2. John 1:10–11 — The Refusal to Receive Him

Observation Questions

1. What contrasts do you see between who Jesus is and how the world responded?
2. What does this reveal about the human heart apart from God?

3. John 1:12–13 — The Gift of Becoming Children of God

“But to all who did receive Him... He gave the right to become children of God...”

Observation Questions

1. What distinguishes those who become children of God from those who do not?
2. What do verses 12–13 teach about the nature of salvation?



APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think people today can be surrounded by spiritual things yet never truly receive Christ?
2. What are some modern “lights” people follow instead of Jesus?
3. What would change in your life if you intentionally lived from your identity as a *child of God* this week?
4. Which part of the passage challenges you most—rejection, receiving, or being adopted?

RESPONSE

1. Where is Jesus inviting you to receive Him more fully—not just acknowledge Him?
2. What decision, habit, or posture needs to change if you’re going to live as someone who belongs to God?
3. Who in your life needs to hear about the God who welcomes people into His family by grace?



Group Guide - Participant Series: Life and Light

John 1:14–18

READ THE TEXT - John 1:14–18

OBSERVE THE TEXT

Verses 14–15

Q1. What stands out to you in verse 14? What words or phrases feel surprising or unexpected?

Q2. What does it mean that Jesus “dwelt” among us? Why might John choose that word?

Verses 16–17

Q3. What contrast do you see between Moses/the law and Jesus/grace and truth?

Q4. Verse 16 says, “grace upon grace.” What do you think John is trying to communicate with that phrase?

Verse 18

Q5. According to verse 18, what has Jesus done that no one else could do?

APPLY THE TEXT

Q6. What are some common ways people try to understand or approach God *apart from* Jesus?

Q7. How does this passage challenge the idea that Christianity is mainly about rules or religious performance?



RESPOND

Q8. When you think about God, which do you tend to feel more—distance or closeness? Why?

Q9. Where in your life this week do you need to stop trying to earn God's approval and instead trust what Jesus has already shown you about God?

Q10. If you really believed that Jesus fully reveals God's heart toward you, what is one specific way that would change how you respond this week—at work, at home, or in your relationships?



Group Participant Guide

Series: Life and Light

John 1:35–39

Opening Question

Icebreaker: As you think about this past year, what's one word you'd use to describe it for you personally?

Read the Passage

Read **John 1:35–39** aloud.

Observation Questions (What does the text say?)

1. What's happening in this scene?
 - Who are the people involved?
 - What causes these men to start following Jesus?
2. What is the very first thing Jesus says to them?
 - Why do you think He asks a question instead of making a statement?
3. How do the disciples respond to Jesus' question?
 - Do they actually answer it?

Interpretation Questions (What does it mean?)

4. Why do you think Jesus asks, "What are you seeking?"
 - What does that question reveal about how Jesus approaches people?
5. What do you think these disciples were actually seeking—even if they couldn't name it yet?
6. Jesus responds with, "Come and you will see." Why is that important?
 - What kind of invitation is this?
 - What does it tell us about how people come to know Jesus?



Application Questions (What does it mean for us?)

7. If Jesus asked you today, “What are you seeking?”—how would you honestly answer?
 - Not the church answer—the real one.
8. What are some things people commonly seek instead of Jesus—especially at the end of a year like this?
 - Relief?
 - Control?
 - Comfort?
 - Validation?
 - A “better version” of themselves?
9. What might it look like for you to “come and see” Jesus more intentionally in the year ahead?
 - Time with Him?
 - Trusting Him with a specific area?
 - Obedience you’ve been postponing?
 - Letting go of something competing for your attention?

Year-End Reflection

10. As you look toward the new year, what do you want your life to be oriented around—really?
 - What do you want shaping your decisions?
 - What do you want forming your habits?
 - What would need to change for that to happen?

Closing Prayer

- Thank God that He makes Himself known
- Ask for honesty about what we’re seeking
- Ask for courage to take the next step toward Jesus in the year ahead

