

The Light Eternal

John 8:12

¹²Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

Context: Festival of Tabernacles (or Booths)

- Celebration involving water and light. It would light up all Jerusalem at night!

1. I AM the light of the world.

The Declaration: I AM

- He is who He says He is - no one else!

Light: *Phos*; not just the light that enables us to see

- Nature of God, Presence of God, Revelation of God

Not just Israel, but of the World.

- He came not to abolish the law, but to fulfill it.

2. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness

Follow:

- Do we follow what's good, or what's ultimate?
- Following requires movement in one direction. We cannot go back and forth!
- Keep our eyes on Jesus. (guide)

Walking in Darkness:

- Darkness will be inevitable. But grace is more.
- Not about the avoidance of sin
- Keep our eyes on Jesus. (presence)

3. But have the light of life

- From here into eternity
- Reflect God's light wherever, and to whomever you go.

Questions for Small Groups

Scripture: John 8:12-20

OBSERVATION QUESTIONS:

- What does Jesus actually claim about Himself in this passage?
- What two promises does Jesus give to those who follow Him?
- Why do the Pharisees say His testimony is not valid?
- What does Jesus say their real problem is?

INTERPRETATION QUESTIONS:

- What kinds of "darkness" exist in the world today?
- What is the difference between knowing about the light and following the light?
- How is Jesus different from other leaders who claim to show the "right path"?
- What does this passage teach about Jesus' authority?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

- What might spiritual blindness look like in our culture?
- Where in your life do you most feel darkness right now (confusion, fear, sin, doubt)?
- Is there an area where you're trying to create your own light instead of following Jesus?
- What does it practically look like to "follow" Jesus this week?
- Who in your life might need to see the light of Christ through you?

