

Small Group Discussion Guide

Title: The Lifted Light

Text: John 8:12–30

Big Idea: The crucifixion of Jesus brings clarification about Jesus.

Opening Question

- Have you ever been in total darkness, either physically or spiritually? What did you long for in that moment?
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Background: Understanding the Feast

Read aloud or summarize the context:

The Feast of Tabernacles (Sukkot) was a week-long celebration to remember how God provided for and dwelled with Israel during their time in the wilderness. They lived in temporary shelters ("booths") and lit lamps to remember the pillar of fire that guided them. It was also a time looking forward—both to the hope of the Messiah and, as Revelation reveals, a future day when God will dwell permanently with his people.

Discussion Questions:

1. What stands out to you about the purpose and traditions of the Feast of Tabernacles?
 2. Why do you think God designed such a celebratory, physical way to remember his faithfulness?
 3. How does the Feast show that God's desire has always been to dwell with his people—not just Israel but all nations?
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Part 1: Jesus Is the Light (John 8:12)

"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

Discussion Questions:

1. Why is it significant that Jesus makes this claim during the Feast of Tabernacles, when people were remembering the pillar of fire?
2. What kind of "darkness" is Jesus speaking about here?
3. How has following Jesus brought light into areas of your life?

Deeper Reflection:

- Jesus uses the phrase “I am” (ego eimi), echoing God’s self-revelation in Exodus 3:14. Why is this a bold, even dangerous claim for him to make publicly in the temple?
 - How does this help clarify Jesus’ identity?
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Part 2: Jesus Was Lifted Up (John 8:28)

“When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he...”

Discussion Questions:

1. What do you think Jesus meant by being “lifted up”? (cf. John 3:14, 12:32)
2. Why would seeing Jesus crucified help people understand who he truly is?
3. What aspects of God’s character—mercy, justice, grace—are revealed most clearly at the cross?

Reflection Prompt:

- Think of a time when the cross helped bring clarity to a question or struggle in your faith. What did you come to see more clearly about Jesus?
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Application: Clarifying Our View of Jesus

Discussion Questions:

1. Why is it important to have clarity about who Jesus really is—not just a spiritual teacher or prophet, but the eternal Son of God?
 2. How might we be tempted today to accept a “lesser” version of Jesus?
 3. What are practical ways we can center our faith around the crucified and risen Jesus?
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Next Steps / Response

- Take a moment to reflect silently: Where do you need to be reminded that Jesus is light in your darkness?
 - Invite group members to pray short prayers thanking Jesus for revealing who he is through his cross.
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Optional Follow-Up Practice

- Read through John 7–10 this week, paying attention to Jesus’ “I am” statements and how people respond to him.

- Try building a simple sukkah (booth) at home as a spiritual exercise—reflect on God’s presence and provision through temporary seasons.