

ONE

STORY

SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

WEEK 43

Light of the World

BEFORE THE SESSION:

- Pray for each of your group members by name
- Look over the questions on the right and choose the ones that are most appropriate for your small group. If you're really feeling motivated, you might even think of a few on your own.
- Think through how you might prompt your group a little if they have difficulty getting started in discussion.
- Take a look at the accountability question below. Lead members to gather one on one or in same sex clusters to discuss it over coffee this week.

THIS WEEK'S BIG IDEA

We are to be light in the world.

ACCOUNTABILITY QUESTION

Do you think your life exemplifies darkness or lightness?

TO PREPARE FOR NEXT WEEK:

Read Matthew 19-21; Mark 10-11; Luke 16-19; John 11-12

AS YOU READ...

...Think about what God's plan is for your life.

CONNECT

(10 min.)

Choose one or both of the following questions to begin your time together as a group.

1. **Where is the darkest location you've ever been? What was it like to transition from darkness to light?**
2. **Have you ever been to a place where you can feel "spiritual darkness"? If so, explain.**

EXPLORE

(40 min.)

Say something like, "Today we will be looking at the Parable of the Sower" Then guide your group through these questions.

3. **If you were in worship this week, what statement or experience stood out to you? What stood out during last week's reading?**

(Leader: Take some time to discuss any questions that may have arisen as your members read through this week's assigned reading.)

4. **Read John 8:12. What does Jesus teach concerning himself? What is the response that Jesus demands?**
5. **Read 13-20. What was the Pharisee's objection to Jesus' claims? What does Jesus teach them about the Father's testimony?**
6. **What does the Pharisees' question in verse 19 reveal about their relationship with the Father?**
7. **Read 21-22. Why will the Pharisees "die in their sins?" What was the response of some of the listeners in the temple?**
8. **Read 23-25. What is at stake in this whole discussion? Why does everything hinge on who Jesus really is and who sent Him?**
9. **How does the knowledge of knowing Jesus as the "light of the world" change how you live, work, and play?**

TRANSFORM

(10 min.)

Wrap up your time by recalling a few things from your meeting that stood out to you. Then, ask the following question and pray together.

10. **How will you communicate the truth Jesus taught concerning himself to others? How can you be a light-bearer to them?**

This Week's Study Notes:

Scripture Notes

Jesus makes his second "I am" statement while teaching in the Temple. He testified that He was the Bread of Life in John 6:35. Now, He testifies that He is the Light of the World. Jesus answers Pharisee's challenge to His own testimony by teaching them about Himself with regards to the Father.

Jesus teaches that He is the light of the world. As the light, He exposes sin as being sin and sinners as being sinners (John 3:20, 7:7). As light, He gives truth and life to those who believe (John 1:4). Therefore, Jesus states that those who follow Him "will not walk in the darkness," but rather have "the light of life" (John 8:12).

Jesus teaches that He and the Father are one. For this reason, He states that "if you knew me, you would know My Father also" (John 8:19). But highlighted with the case of the Pharisees, "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" (John 1:5).

Jesus teaches that "unless you believe that I am He, you will die in your sin." Death and judgment comes because of unbelief in Jesus. Conversely, life and atonement comes through faith in Christ.

The purpose of the Gospel of John and the purpose Jesus' teaching is the same, "that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name" (John 20:31). Some in the temple did end up coming to believe Jesus while listening to His dialogue.

Leader Tips

AS YOU READ THIS WEEK...

- Think about and pray for each member of your small group.
- Think through the following questions:
 1. Whom does God bring to mind as I read these verses? Why?
 2. What needs to change in my own life as a result of what I'm reading?
 3. Whom do I need to tell about these verses?

FOR ADDITIONAL STUDY WE RECOMMEND...

- Bible Commentary: Bible.org
- Bible Commentary: DesiringGod.org
- Pronouncing Biblical Words: Netministries.org/Bbasics/bwords.htm

* Scripture Notes adapted from and used by permission of Serendipity House Publishing, 1 LifeWay Plaza, Nashville, Tennessee

