



Week Five: John 8:12-20
“Light of the World”

Study Guide for the week of
October 10, 2021

*(next week, October 17, “Jesus and
Expectations” (John 11:1-27)*

Read John 8:12-20. Some questions to answer and discuss:

1. When was a time you were able to verify someone else’s testimony?
2. Why did Jesus say His own testimony was valid? ([8:14](#))
3. What two witnesses did Jesus claim testified on His behalf? ([8:17-18](#))
4. Why is Jesus’ testimony credible to you?
5. What would people say about the validity of your testimony?
6. In what way can you testify on behalf of Jesus this week?

Going deeper: More questions for discussion and reflection:

1. Why is light such an important theme, not just in John’s gospel but in the entire Bible?
2. Read [Exodus 13:21-22](#), [14:19-20](#), and [33:9-10](#). How does knowing the backstory and underlying themes help us to understand what Jesus is truly saying?
3. How is Jesus the light of your life? How have you experienced his protection, presence, and guidance?
4. In what ways is Jesus calling you to walk in the light? Do you need more of God’s Word in your life? Is there sin that needs to be confessed? Is there someone that you need to share the gospel with?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that Jesus would be our light. Pray that we would not seek salvation or guidance from anyone or anything above him.
2. Pray that we would joyfully bear the light of Jesus to a dark and broken world.

Life Application Bible Notes

8:12 To understand what Jesus meant by "the light of the world," see the note on [1:4](#), [5](#).

8:12 Jesus was speaking in the Treasury—the part of the Temple where the offerings were put ([8:20](#)) and where candles burned to symbolize the pillar of fire that led the people of Israel through the wilderness ([Exodus 13:21, 22](#)). In this context, Jesus called himself the light of the world. The pillar of fire represented God's presence, protection, and guidance. Likewise, Jesus brings God's presence, protection, and guidance. Is he the light of *your* world?

8:12 What does it mean to follow Christ? As a soldier follows his captain, so we should follow Christ, our commander. As a slave follows his master, so we should follow Christ, our Lord. As we follow the advice of a trusted counselor, so we should follow Jesus' commands to us in Scripture. As we follow the laws of our nation, so we should follow the laws of the Kingdom of Heaven.

8:13, 14 The Pharisees thought Jesus was either a lunatic or a liar. Jesus provided them with a third alternative: He was telling the truth. Because most of the Pharisees refused to consider the third alternative, they never recognized him as Messiah and Lord. If you are seeking to know who Jesus is, do not close any door before looking through it honestly. Only with an open mind will you know the truth that he is Messiah and Lord.

8:13-18 The Pharisees argued that Jesus' claim was legally invalid because he had no other witnesses. Jesus responded that his confirming witness was God himself. Jesus and the Father made two witnesses, the number required by the law ([Deuteronomy 19:15](#)).

8:20 The Temple Treasury was located in the Court of Women. In this area, 13 collection boxes were set up to receive money offerings. Seven of the boxes were for the Temple tax; the other 6 were for freewill offerings. On another occasion, a widow placed her money in one of these boxes, and Jesus taught a profound lesson from her action ([Luke 21:1-4](#)).

Gospel of John Study Guide questions and notes are from



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