

## Week 4: John 8:12-32

### Key Theme: The Light of Jesus

#### SEE my Life: Life Map & Fasting Reflection Icebreaker (15 mins)

Share briefly how your time of fasting and reflection with your life map and Psalm 107 went. What is God reminding you of or teaching you through this experience?

#### SEE Jesus: John 8:12-32 (30 mins)

Read the text aloud and respond to the following questions. During the scripture processing part of your time, vary your structure. Sometimes—especially, if you have a large group, an introverted group, or a dominating voice—share responses in pairs or trios.

1. What stands out to you from the text? What word or phrase seems significant to you? What questions do you have about the text?
2. What does Jesus mean when he says, “I am the light of the world”?
3. On what authority does Jesus speak?
4. What does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus? \*\*Here is a helpful definition of a disciple from *Discipleshift* by Putnam and Harrington:  
A disciple is a person who is
  - following Christ (head),
  - being changed by Christ (heart), and
  - committed to the mission of Christ (hands)
5. How are truth and freedom connected?
6. How has your belief in Jesus changed something in your life, in your relationships, in your priorities? Where is there still “darkness”? (This question could be a natural transition into the next section. You could also ask this question in the next section—in the context of your life map.)

#### SEE my Life: Shedding Light on the Past and the Present (30 mins)

As you reflect on the concept of “life and light” from the John passage and your own story, share one or more of the following. Feel free to reference your life map. Again depending on the dynamics of your group, feel free to share in pairs, smaller groups, or same gender groups.

- What is one event from your past that you see differently now? You might phrase it this way: I used to think \_\_\_\_\_, but now I think \_\_\_\_\_.
- What did it look like for you to live without the light of Jesus? As you look back, can you think of the way you used to look at someone or something? This could be something as generic as a movie or television show, or as personal as a behavior or a relationship. The key here is how did you use to think?

#### SEE the practices of Jesus: Fasting (15 mins to explain and close in prayer)

Continue with your practice of fasting this week. Skip at least one meal and purposefully spend 30-60 minutes reading and reflecting on Psalm 139, which describes beautifully what God's presence looks like in our lives. With your life map in front of you (in picture form), ask yourself the following questions:

- What does it mean to be known by God? As you read about God “searching” and “knowing” and “perceiving” even our thoughts, how does that make you feel?
- As you think about “all the days ordained” for you and God’s knowledge of those events—“even before one of them came to be”—pick something “yellow” or “red” from your life map. How did God use that particular event?
- Make verses 23-24 your prayer:  
Search me, O God, and know my heart;  
Test me and know my anxious thoughts.  
See if there is any offensive way in me,  
And lead me in the way everlasting.
- As you are praying, leave some time simply for the Holy Spirit to respond to you. What does He bring to your mind? Where are you thinking wrongly—about a circumstance, a person, yourself, God? Be as specific as you can be. What are your “anxious thoughts”? Again, be specific. How are you “offending” God through your thoughts and actions?
- Now, spend some time repenting—“Father, I was wrong in my thinking about \_\_\_\_\_ . Please forgive me for my \_\_\_\_\_ . I now know that I have offended you by \_\_\_\_\_ .”
- Read Romans 5:1-11, which focuses on the peace and joy we experience through our salvation. Close by thanking Jesus for what he has done for and is doing in you.

To close the meeting today, pray for each other in smaller groups, asking God to work in each of us through the fasting and reflection activity. Also, take some time to pray for those names who don't know Jesus—the one's you've been praying for daily. Also, start asking the Lord to help you SEE areas of your own testimony as a connection to help that person SEE Jesus.