

17 September

 Break the ice

Write down what God is saying to you in today's message:

TOPIC: Gospel of John – week 19

 Let's hear your story

1. Tell of a time when you had to explain to a friend or family member why Jesus referred to Himself as the Light of the world?
2. What was God's words after creating light in Genesis 1:4? **(God saw the light, that it was good...).**
3. To what does David relate God's light to in Psalm 27:1? **(The Lord is my light and my salvation...).**
4. How does John point to the Messiah, Jesus Christ as the Light? **(See John 1:1 – 10).**

 Let's go deeper

5. How did Jesus fulfil the feast of tabernacles? **(He is the "Great Light" who the prophet Isaiah said would come (Isaiah 9:2). And He is God in the flesh, and the Glory of the Temple (John 1:14).**
6. What was Jesus' words in John 8:12, after proclaiming Himself as the Light of the world? **(He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness...).**
7. In the ancient Greek world what did it mean if someone said; "follow me?" **(It referred to a soldier following his captain; or a slave accompanying his master; or a person following the counsel of a wise teacher; or a citizen obeying the laws of their King.).**

 Let's apply this

8. **John 8:12;** Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who **follows Me** shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."
  - Jesus is inviting us to follow Him.
  - What are some practical ways in which you can strengthen your relationship with Jesus? (Bible reading, prayer, worship, time spent with godly friends and family).
  - Take some time this week to reflect on John 8:12 – 30 and allow Holy Spirit to lead you and reveal Jesus to you.

SUMMARY:

**Gospel of John:** Week 19 (Jesus is the Light of the world).

**Read:** John 8:12 – 30

One of the great mysteries of ancient Greek was the question; what is stronger light or darkness? And in John's gospel; John repeatedly says that light overcomes darkness, and in John 8:12; we read that Jesus says; "I am the Light of the world."

**Some examples of the concept of light in the Old Testament:**

- Genesis 1:3 – 4;** God created light and said it was good.
- Exodus 13:21 – 22;** God used a pillar of fire to lead and guide His people by night.
- Exodus 25:31 – 40;** There was a gold lampstand with other lampstands in the tent.
- Psalm 27:1;** Light relates to God's salvation.
- Psalm 36:9;** God has life and light in Himself.
- Psalm 56:13;** God delivers us, so that we can walk with Him in the light of life.
- Psalm 112:4;** God's light is available to us even in darkness.
- Psalm 118:27;** God is light, and He makes His light to shine upon us.
- Psalm 119:130;** God's Word gives light and understanding.
- Ecclesiastes 2:13;** Light is also a metaphor used for wisdom.

**John 1:4 – 5;** John says that this light points directly to the Messiah, Jesus Christ.  
**John 1:9;** John says that Jesus is the Light who came into the world.  
**John 3:19 – 20;** John points out that the darkness is our sin, evil and wickedness.  
 The context of **John 8:12 – 30** is that Jesus is still at the feast of tabernacles.

**The Feast of Tabernacles celebrates:**

God's deliverance from bondage and slavery in Egypt. That God was with His people. God gave a pillar of fire by night, light to guide their journey and their way.

**The light from these Temple lamps symbolized two realities:**

The reality of the "Light of all Lights" – the Shekinah Glory the visible presence of God that filled the first Temple, which Solomon built (1 Kings 8:10 – 11).

The second was the Great Light who would soon come and bring light to those who were spiritually dead and dwelling in darkness (Isaiah 9:2).

**Jesus proclaimed two truths with His statement in John 8:12:**

He is the "Great Light" who the prophet Isaiah said would come (Isaiah 9:2).  
 He is God in the flesh, and the Glory of the Temple (John. 1:14).

**The response was threefold:**

Some religious people rejected Him (v.13). Others asked Him for more information. (v.25). Others believed and received Him (v.30).