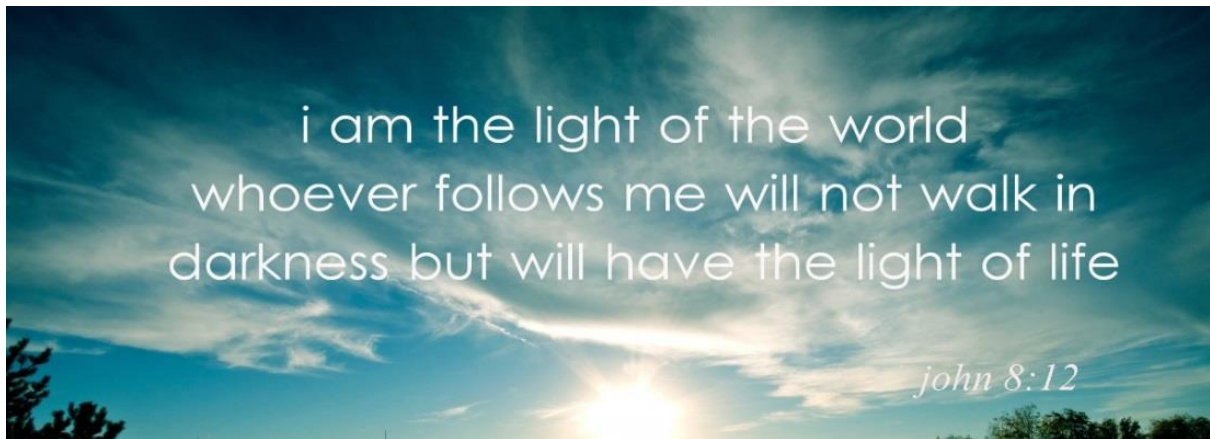

Growth Group Notes: I am the light of the world



Warm Up

What is your most vivid memory involving darkness?

What feelings do you associate with darkness and why?

Introduction

Jesus declares, “I am the light of the world”, recorded first in John 8:12 after which follows an extended discussion with the Pharisees about truth, testimony, identity and parentage! Jesus then heals a blind man in John 9 and repeats the statement “I am the light of the world” in John 9:5, again followed by confusion and debate over sin, blindness, truth and light.

Do encourage the group to read John 8:12 – 9:41 if they have time before the session.

Biblical Background

Light and Darkness are big themes throughout Scripture. In order to have a better grasp of what Jesus is talking about when he says I am the Light of the World, it will help to look at a few of the key places in the Bible that feature LIGHT

Why not divide them up between the group and see what each passage shows us about light and darkness, and how these concepts are used in the Bible?

Genesis 1:1-4

Exodus 13:20-22

Psalms 27

Isaiah 9:1-7

Isaiah 42:1-7

John 1:1-18

Colossians 1:9-14

You may think of other passages to add to this list.

As you come back together share your discoveries and try to sum up the biblical concepts of light and darkness

Read John 9:1-41

although this is a long passage, it is worth reading it all to get the full story

Who are the different characters we meet in this episode?

- V1
- V1
- V2
- V8
- V13
- V16
- V18

Why do you think Jesus chooses to heal the man the way he does, v6-7?

How does the man's understanding of Jesus develop through the episode? v7, 15, 17, 25, 27, 30, 36, 38

What is the link being made between sight and understanding?

What do the Pharisees think of the man born blind? v17,19,28,34

What do the Pharisees think of Jesus? v16, 24, 28

How does this miraculous healing and the debate between the healed man and the Pharisees help us understand the biblical concepts of light / darkness, belief / unbelief more clearly?

What is Jesus' challenge to all in this passage?

As an aside: in v2-3 Jesus is clearly, cutting any direct link between personal or family sin and this man's sickness. This was the commonly held view at the time (cf v2, 34)

Jesus says that his blindness cannot be blamed on anything or anyone. However, Jesus does raise more questions by his statement "but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him."

Is Jesus really going as far as saying that this man has been blind his whole life IN ORDER that Jesus might heal him now?

What do you think?

If this is what Jesus is saying, what can we assume about this importance of this episode – given that we know God is a loving, compassionate God?

Getting personal...

Where in your life are you tempted to choose darkness over light?

Where in your life do you need God light clearly the way ahead?

Where in your life to you need to God to give your clarity of understanding?

As you pray together make sure you take time to ask Jesus to shine his light into our hearts

why not use candle/s in this meeting as a visual aid to assist the study and your prayers

